

Your impact on the lives of blind veterans

Debrief

Summer 2025



Lighting the way, thanks to you



Rebuilding
lives after
sight loss

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Darkness**
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blindveterans.org.uk/debrief



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Welcome



Adrian Bell CEO, Blind Veterans UK

Dear Supporters

I hope you're starting to enjoy the long-awaited, lighter days of summer.

In May, we marked the 80th anniversary of VE Day with our 'After the Darkness' campaign, reflecting the contrast between light and dark as joy swept across Europe after six brutal years of war.

We had the privilege of sharing the powerful memories of 13 of our veterans who served in the Second World War. Their stories are a lasting tribute to the courage, sacrifice and resilience that carried a generation through unimaginable hardship.

Each story was brought to life by award-winning artist Martin Impey. With a personal connection to the charity through relatives who lost their sight in both world wars, Martin described his involvement as "an honour". You'll find one of his striking illustrations on the cover, and another on page 5.

Looking ahead to the 80th anniversary of VJ Day in August, we also share the reflections of John, a veteran who served in the Far East. As the date approaches, he looks back with sadness to the comrades who never came home. Today, our veterans like John face a different kind of battle – this time with sight loss. As darkness descends once more, they can often struggle with fear, isolation and a loss of independence.

Thanks to your incredible support, our rehabilitation teams can be there for them, offering life-changing help at home or in our Centre helping to reconnect them to their communities. You can read more about this vital work on pages 10 and 16.

I end with my heartfelt thanks. Whether you donate, fundraise, or give your time, we couldn't do any of this work without you. As you will see from veteran Desmond's story on page 14, you are not just lighting the way for blind veterans, you are helping give them their life back.

With sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Bell'.

Adrian Bell
CEO

Cover illustration – Blind veteran Ruth's VE Day by Martin Impey

After the darkness - celebrations and commemorations 80 years after VE Day

Blind Veterans UK marked the 80th anniversary of VE Day in style with a series of heartfelt and memorable events across the country, honouring the bravery and sacrifices of veterans who served during the Second World War. The celebrations were a testament to the resilience and spirit of those who fought for freedom and continue to inspire us today.

The historic Petwood Hotel, once the headquarters of the 617 Dambusters RAF squadron, hosted a vibrant event on 8 May. The air was filled with music, creating a nostalgic atmosphere reminiscent of the 1940s. The guests of honour were John, Harry and Ted, three WWII veterans who arrived in style leading a fleet of 1940s military vehicles which then went on display for all to enjoy. All the guests, including over 60 blind veterans, enjoyed a hog roast and celebration cake made by the baker to HM The King. The highlight of the event was a special Battle of Britain Memorial Flight flypast of a Spitfire and Hurricane.



Group two minute silence at Rustington



The team at Manchester Piccadilly

The charity was also proud to host an event at Manchester Piccadilly, home of our iconic Victory over Blindness statue, coming together with the local community for the two-minute silence on the anniversary. The Military Wives Choir provided performances and blind veteran artist Bryan was demonstrating his unbelievable painting ability live, producing art for passers-by to take away.



WWII veterans John, Harry and Ted at Petwood

Our Rustington Centre hosted a tea party for all the blind veterans staying with us for the week. Games were played and the centre was proud to display the stories, portraits and illustrations of our 13 Second World War veterans whose stories we were proud to capture and share. One of 1,000 beacons lit across the country shone brightly from our centre.

Nationwide, Blind Veterans UK organised various events to honour the 80th anniversary of peace in Europe. The celebrations were enriched by the personal stories of veterans like Matt, 101, Thomas and Alice, both 99, who shared their memories of VE Day.

Thank you so much for your donations and messages of support. Our new dedication wall was inundated with kind words about their bravery and we read them to the veterans. Matt was incredibly touched, saying "thank you for your kind messages, it's very nice". Despite fighting at the battle of Monte Cassino, he denies being courageous: "Do you ever think, what if we just said no? See, you haven't got a choice, you have to just keep going. It was our duty, not courage." **However, we feel we can never adequately express our gratitude to him.**

Alice, was invited by our Patron, HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace on 7 May; Thomas was invited to Westminster Abbey on 8 May, in attendance with the Royal Family. They were heroes of the day both in 1945 and 2025. Their surroundings were certainly very different to those of 80 years ago, when Alice was at Bletchley Park and Thomas attended a street party, captured here by renowned illustrator Martin Impey.



Martin's illustration of Thomas at the Mansford street party



Alice smiling at HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh

Thomas's VE Day is one of a series of 13 stunning paintings by Martin for our "After the Darkness" VE Day 80 campaign. They were displayed at The Cartoon Museum in London from April to June, allowing visitors to connect with the personal stories of our blind veterans.

Each VE Day 80 event we held honoured the resilience and bravery of our Second World War veterans, while also raising awareness and support for those veterans living with sight loss today. The commemorations were a powerful reminder of the enduring legacy of VE Day and the importance of supporting our veterans.

Leave a message for our veterans by visiting message.blindveterans.org.uk

Blind veteran Ruth remembers the day the light returned

As she approaches her 100th birthday, Ruth looks back on VE Day and her amazing life.

Ruth was 19 when she signed up to join the Wrens - and couldn't believe it when she received her acceptance letter on the day peace was declared. "I was in a reserved occupation as a cashier in a bank, but obviously thought I ought to be doing something else, so I applied to join the Wrens. The acceptance letter arrived on VE Day. I was shocked!"

She clearly remembers the jubilant VE Day celebrations, and the bonfires and haystacks that lit up the sky, as depicted in the cover illustration by Martin Impey. To celebrate, Ruth and a few of her friends and family went out. "We put all the lights on, and we put flags up in the garden, and then went on a picnic".

Despite the joy, there was trepidation about the ongoing war in Japan. She says, "It was very mixed feelings. That sort of put gloom on top of the rejoicing".

Soon after VE Day, Ruth began her service with the Wrens in Northern Ireland, where she met her future husband, a maintenance test pilot. They married two years after the war and spent 25 years with the Navy, travelling the world with their young family. "The holidays were super in Norway because we all learned to ski," she says.



Blind veteran Ruth in service and today
Photography by Richard Cannon

After losing her sight in her 80s, Ruth found the loss of independence deeply challenging. "Everything is difficult. I lose things; I break things," she says. But ongoing support has made a huge difference, particularly the regular visits from her volunteer. Ruth says, "I have a very nice lady who comes to see me once every other week. She always makes a cup of tea, and we have a piece of cake together."

Ruth celebrates her 100th birthday this September. We salute her and thank her for her service – and wish her a wonderful day. With her ten grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren, we're sure it will be a fabulous party!

Ruth was part of our VE Day 80 campaign, After the Darkness. Visit blindveterans.org.uk/vestories to find out more.

8 May is more than the VE Day anniversary to blind veteran John

This year, it was his 101st birthday! He spent it in London, as a guest of honour at the official celebrations for the 80th anniversary of VE Day. His birthday in 1945 was, in fact, “not a particularly happy birthday”. He was in the Far East, serving aboard HMS Rorqual - the only Grampus-class submarine to survive the war.

John explains, “We had lain a minefield in Batavia Harbour. On our way back, they must have detected that we were around. Suddenly we heard explosions - depth charges. The Japanese didn't pursue the attack but it was frightening at the same time. On my 21st birthday!”

John heard that the war was over in Europe but it didn't mean much to him. They were happy for their families but the reality was, he says, “we were still stuck out there”.

He also missed out on an important Navy birthday tradition - a sip of rum from each member of the crew.



L-R: Blind veteran Jules with John and volunteer Robin

John was so distracted by the close call that he forgot to tell everyone it was his 21st. “It would have been 60 or so sips... I was very disappointed I didn't get my sippers!”

For John, the anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day are sombre reminders. “I lost so many friends. The submarine service suffered awful losses. About a third of all submariners lost their lives.”

In his first year with Blind Veterans UK, John has visited our Rustington Centre twice, finding comfort and camaraderie. He enjoyed meeting some fellow Royal Navy veterans and “swinging a few lamps”. He says, “I have got nothing but praise for the staff at Rustington. They are incredible people.”

He's also grateful for the help he's received to manage better at home, including a mobile phone, a digital magnifier, and wonderful chats with his Blind Veterans UK volunteer.

“I spend a lot of time on my own,” says John, “so it's nice to go out and just talk.” **Your support stops blind veterans like John from feeling isolated and lonely. Thank you.**

Supporter spotlight - VE Day 80 victories

We had an amazing response to our VE Day 80 fundraising appeal – thank you all. We were also stunned by the wonderful ways that supporters raised vital funds in communities throughout the country. We could dedicate a whole magazine to the stories but here are just some of them.

Pupils of Kirkby Avenue Primary School used our online Schools Booklet to learn more about the real events and emotions of VE Day. They also used our resources to help decorate for their Street Party and Dress Up day, which raised £138.



Kirkby Ave Primary School on VE Day 80

RAF Officer Steph Walters ran the Battersea Half Marathon. “Coming from a long line of military personnel, and serving myself, it was fantastic to take this opportunity to raise money for such a worthwhile cause, while ensuring people remembered this significant date.”



Steph and her medal

Specsavers Dorking held a Brew Up Bake Sale. “Many visitors to the store didn’t even take a cake – they just wanted an opportunity to support in a small way,” says team member Nicola. The team’s efforts raised an amazing £1,000!



Specsavers Dorking on VE Day 80

Artist Jacqui attended a VE Day celebration in Nottingham, where she raised funds by donating a percentage of her sales and making our VE Day 80 stories booklet available in exchange for donations. “I loved the opportunity to talk to people about the work of Blind Veterans UK as well as supporting fundraising”.



Jacqui’s artwork of the ‘Lads’ statue

VE Day 80 gave plenty of opportunity for our veterans to achieve their own personal victories and show how far they'd come since beginning their sight loss journeys.

Blind veteran Lee set himself the challenge of swimming 80 lengths of the pool to raise £80. "I'd not swum since losing my sight and used to really enjoy being in the water. The challenge gave me the opportunity to be part of VE Day 80, give back to Blind Veterans UK and truly recognise that there is nothing I can't achieve without their help." With the support of his Community Support Worker, Lee smashed both his swimming and fundraising targets, swimming 2000 meters and raising over £1300! Next up for Lee is the South Coast Ultra Challenge.



Lee with a towel and flag after his swim

It was touch and go for blind veteran Wayne as he ran the last leg of his Worthing Runfest '10k for VE Day' challenge. Despite tripping and hurting himself, he crossed the finish line and beat his fundraising target. "The whole experience of preparing for the run, training, and meeting people in my community to help me with my fundraising was so energising and a real confidence boost. I can't wait for my next challenge. I know it won't be easy but it's worth it to raise funds and awareness". Wayne is now preparing for the London Marathon in 2026.



Rich, Wayne and Theresa with their medals

Read more about these challenges and discover more supporter and veterans' stories in our VE Day Victories round up article.

blindveterans.org.uk/news/thank-you-to-our-ve-day-fundraisers

Inspired? Follow the link below to find out how you, your organisation or group can make a huge difference to the lives of blind veterans by taking on a challenge or activity.

blindveterans.org.uk/support-us/fundraise-for-us



Did you know £250 gives a blind veteran one life-changing day of rehabilitation?

Our experts are changing lives, all thanks to you!

Jason is one of the charity's ROVIs - Rehabilitation Officers for the Visually Impaired - an essential part of the specialised support we offer. ROVIs like Jason help with a wide range of sight loss-related challenges, but what makes their support truly transformative is how they tailor all interventions to a veteran's individual circumstances.



ROVI Jason with a blind veteran

Jason visits blind veterans in their homes. When he first meets a veteran, Jason completes an assessment so he can understand the most pressing challenges. From there, he works closely with the blind veteran to help them reach their goals. **"It's about finding simple solutions, because with sight loss, everything is more difficult and time consuming,"** Jason explains.

Sometimes just the introduction of better lighting and greater contrast can make all the difference. Whereas, at other times a specialist piece of equipment might be needed, but that's where the expertise of ROVIs is needed to assess for the appropriate solution.

A common struggle the blind veterans experience each day is the effects of not being able to read.

"You don't realise what not being able to read entails until you have to try doing life without it," he says.

Whether it's a letter, a bill, medication, or food labels, **not being able to read can make our veterans reliant on others.** As Jason says, "Being able to read personal documents is so important for maintaining independence."

Orientation and mobility is another crucial part of rehabilitation.

Jason recently visited a blind veteran who had lost confidence after a series of falls. Through learning to use a mobility cane safely and effectively, he regained confidence and was able to master kerbs, steps, and other unseen obstacles without falling. Having the confidence to leave the house again has changed his life and reduced social isolation.

Over the years, Jason has helped many veterans to regain their independence through his work - but one veteran's journey has left a lasting impression.

After years of caring for his wife, Dougie faced a devastating loss when his wife passed away. Then, an infection from an insect bite robbed him of the minimal useful vision he had, leaving him blind. Dougie spent many months in the hospital recovering and was forced to rely on regular carer visits before he could be discharged and return home.

Dougie had one request at the first visit – to be able to do things for himself without relying on carers. Jason's expertise and Dougie's determination were a brilliant combination. After months of training, Dougie can now safely use his long cane to travel into the local town independently, to do his own shopping, meet friends and family.



£40 can provide a blind veteran with a long cane – and their freedom.



Dougie using his one cup hot drink maker

Dougie is once again able to cook for himself and organise his home to meet his needs. Dougie has also learned to use smart technology with accessibility features effectively, which helps him make calls, send texts, access information and entertainment, and set timers for cooking. "The difference it's made for him, is incredible," Jason says. **Dougie is independent again.**

Jason adds, "It's about just getting someone over that first hurdle, up that first step of the ladder, and showing them what they can do. And often, they'll take that and fly with it."

Rebuilding lives, every day.

Our ROVIs continue to assist our blind veterans over the course of their lives as their needs change. And, for Jason, nothing compares to the sense of fulfilment and pride he feels after helping someone re-discover their independence.

"Often, I see someone at their lowest ebb, literally not moving out of a chair, or leaving the house because they're afraid of walking into, falling, or tripping over something. They've given up. And then to see that person up and doing things for themselves again, that's what it's all about."

Your support makes all this possible. Because of you, our veterans have the tools, training and guidance they need to rebuild their lives.

Congratulations to our outstanding volunteers!

We're delighted to announce that, for the second time, our volunteer work has received a Quality in Befriending Award - Excellence. The award was presented by Befriending Networks in March 2025.

This is a significant accolade that recognises the unwavering dedication of our wonderful team of volunteers, and the passion and commitment of our Volunteering staff team.

As the only award in the UK specifically tailored for befriending services, we are incredibly proud that the service provided by our volunteers has been classed as outstanding. Blind Veterans UK is one of just 18 other charities that currently holds this award with the excellence standard.

This award not only recognises the hard work and dedication of Blind Veterans UK staff and Volunteers, but also motivates us to welcome more volunteers to the charity so we can continue to provide excellent volunteer support to blind veterans across the country. Volunteering with Blind Veterans UK is a truly rewarding experience—not just for the people we serve, but for the volunteers themselves. It's a chance to be part of something bigger, to make a tangible difference in your local community or at our Rustington centre.



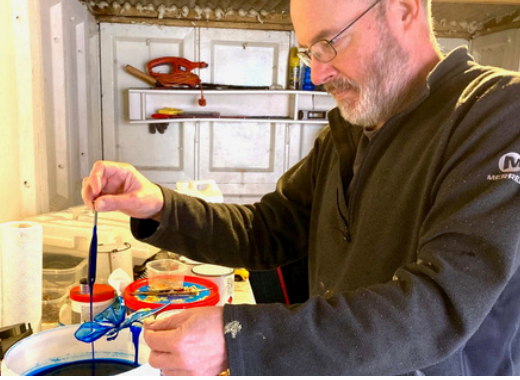
Could you help us to rebuild more lives after sight loss?

At Blind Veterans UK we believe that every volunteer brings unique talents and energy that makes our mission stronger. Could you help us to rebuild more lives after sight loss? Whether you can give a few hours a week or want to participate in specific projects, there's a place for you here. Join us, and let's make a difference together.

Please do have a look on our website at [current opportunities](https://www.blindveterans.org.uk), or send us an email at volunteer@blindveterans.org.uk to find out more.



Volunteers are essential for the running of the charity. Last year, we were supported by 997 volunteers. Our volunteers gifted 26,451 hours of their time. The number of volunteer hours gifted equates to £546,571.



When support comes full circle

Blind veteran Graham is so grateful to the charity for helping him on his sight loss journey that **he's become one of our volunteers.**

Graham, 57, lost his sight 18 years ago due to the degenerative condition retinitis pigmentosa. Forced to leave his job, life soon became very difficult. After his marriage broke down, he reached out for our support.



Graham with his gold medal

The first glimmers of hope appeared for Graham when he met other blind veterans at one of our inductions. Soon after, he was inspired to complete the London triathlon - as the only vision impaired athlete to take part.

Since then, Graham's life has blossomed. He has even represented Great Britain at the World Triathlon Championships in 2008, competing as an athlete with a disability. He won the Gold Medal. We're proud to support him by helping with his travel.

Graham now runs a craft business, but still finds time for his fellow blind veterans. For the past two years, his son has taken him to visit Ken once a week - which they all enjoy, particularly as they get to chat about their shared interests. Graham says, "Visiting Ken adds a bit of structure to my week and gives me a sense of purpose. I love knowing that I make a big difference to Ken as he's quite housebound.

"We have quite a few things in common to chat about, like RAF mechanical engineering and motorsport. I update him weekly on all the news in Formula 1 and explain how the races went.

"It's an honour to know that I'm making such a difference and brightening someone else's day."

Desmond's story: A life rebuilt

The support a blind veteran receives when they lose their sight shapes their lives for years to come. Desmond, 67, looks back on how the charity set him on a new path.

At 20 years old, he was clearing a minefield and accidentally stepped on a mine that exploded in his face, causing extensive injuries - including complete blindness.

"I was 5'8" before it happened, but when I came out of hospital, I was just 5'6". The explosion sort of compacted my body," he says. After leaving hospital, Desmond was referred to our Centre and spent the next six months undergoing intensive rehabilitation.

Coming to terms with his sight loss was almost unbearable, particularly as he could no longer do anything for himself.

First he learned fundamental skills like braille and mobility, drawing on his Army training - "it gave me confidence to move about again," he says. During his initial stages of rehabilitation, Desmond gained a lot of confidence after learning from his fellow blind veterans. He says, **"They had a lot that they could teach me and a lot of courage and support that they gave me. It gives you that light at the end of the tunnel."**

Then it was time to consider a new career. He completed a course to retrain as a telephonist and was able to find work



Desmond at our Rustington centre

in the police, where he stayed for the next 31 years. After such serious injuries and the loss of his career as well as his sight, Desmond's life could have turned out very differently.

He could never have imagined how trying blind bowls would change his life. He says, "I'd only been blind about two and a half years, so it was quite a skill to learn at that time." Desmond ended up getting picked for the national team and even went on to win the World Blind Singles Championship!

Desmond's story shows just how much of an impact your support has. Lives can be totally reshaped and rebuilt. Expert guidance, skills training, and someone to turn to make all the difference and got Desmond where he is today: independent, accomplished and fulfilled.

The last edition of Debrief featured an article on how regular gifts mean support can be there for blind veterans - like Desmond - for their entire life. **To set up a regular gift, use the donation form enclosed or call 0300 111 2233.**

Rebuilding careers as well as lives

Meet our team guiding blind veterans back to work.

For our veterans who lose their sight or are diagnosed unexpectedly whilst still working, it almost always results in them needing to leave their job. This is incredibly distressing for them, adding another challenge to the already difficult experience of sight loss.

Blind Veterans UK offers a targeted service that meets the needs of these veterans, providing the practical help they need as a result of their sight loss. This includes guidance, training and advice on matters including employment, education, mental health, coaching and team-building activities.

The support can be anything from cane training, so veterans can be mobile enough to work, to advising on all the assistive technology that's available. **The confidence boost that comes from finding a new job helps our veterans enormously on their sight loss journeys.**



Blind veterans attending specialist training

Thank you for supporting our blind veterans as they rebuild their careers.

Mark's sight loss story will appear in our September appeal. It's an extraordinary tale of triumph over adversity so do look out for it!

Mark, 58, was working up until he lost his sight, in an psychiatric intensive care unit. He had worked hard to build a career for himself after he left the Army. The sudden loss of his sight was traumatic in itself, but it also left him unable to work. A father of two, Mark was really worried but he felt he had nowhere to turn to.

During his induction week with Blind Veterans UK, Mark was asked what was most important to him. He said, "I need to get back to work. I want to support my family."

He spent numerous weeks with the charity being taught how to use a computer, using a screen reader. Mark took exams so he would have the right qualifications. Then, when he applied for jobs, he could list his new skills and achievements. The result was he was back in work a year after he lost his sight. He has since got more qualifications and progressed in his new career. Without this support to get back to work, Mark says things would have been very different: **"I don't think I'd have been here today", he says.**

Rebuilding lives in the community



Sue with blind veteran Michael, celebrating his 100th birthday

Our blind veterans have immense courage and determination but they all need guidance and advice on their sight loss journeys.

That's where our incredible Community Support Workers (CSWs) come in. They welcome new blind veterans to the charity and then work with them throughout their sight loss journey, to make sure they get the right support to achieve their goals.

CSW Sue has been with the charity for over a decade. In that time, she has seen some truly incredible transformations in the people she's worked with. One blind veteran had lost his sight due to a brain tumour and was isolated and struggling to adjust. Step by step, Sue introduced him to services within the charity that began to rebuild his life. She says, "He went from sitting on the sofa, unable to read, unable to do anything, to being trained to use a long cane and then back out in the community."

Each time Sue helped him, his trust in her grew until she had helped him to regain his independence.

Sue is also determined that veterans stay connected and engaged within the community. One blind veteran Sue worked with was convinced that he didn't want to leave his home. She thought socialising with fellow veterans might help.

She says, "Last year, I started a coffee morning in his area and I encouraged him to give it one chance and then if he didn't like it, he didn't have to come back. We've run that coffee morning for the last year. He's come to every single one!"

From offering practical support and building confidence, to simply being someone to talk to, our CSWs offer a lifeline. **Thanks to you, they're with our veterans every step of the way.**



Last year, community teams delivered 1,090 local activities and events for beneficiaries. Of these, 702 were conducted face to face and 388 were virtual.

Sue is the Community Support Worker for Jerry, 62. He spent 13 years in the Royal Air Force as an analyst.

Problems with his sight surfaced as he left the RAF, but it wasn't until 2003 that he was diagnosed with Stargardt disease, a genetic eye disorder. Jerry explains, "Everybody's got one blind spot in each eye. Stargardt's gives you three and mine are growing." He has now lost all his central vision. Jerry also has Charles Bonnet syndrome, a lesser-known condition that causes vivid hallucinations. A black and white cartoon sits permanently in the corner of his vision.

Jerry needed support and advice. He met up with a couple of charities but after a bit of equipment and a chat, the support stopped. He was wary when he heard about Blind Veterans UK – would it be the same? But, just over a year ago, he had his first meeting with Sue. She arranged sessions with a Rehabilitation Officer, and invited Jerry to her local coffee morning, arranging a lift for him.

Next she booked Jerry on to the charity's adventure week. There, he met more blind veterans and suddenly, he says, "sight loss was normalised".



Blind veteran Jerry at axe throwing

It was a wonderful feeling. The agenda was go-karting, climbing, kayaking, axe throwing and shotgun shooting. He had no idea how he would do any of it. The staff had such confidence in him he thought, "I can do this. All of a sudden, I could do stuff I thought I'd never do again". His felt his own confidence flood back.

Sue and Karl, Jerry's Rehabilitation Officer, have identified bits of equipment to help Jerry, like a scanner and a symbol cane. As his sight declines, he's interested in trialling the Orcam glasses, that incorporate a camera. He's also been keeping fit with support from the charity's personal trainer, Theresa, who's based at our Rustington Centre. His next challenge is an intense 100k non-stop walk to fundraise for Blind Veterans UK.

Today, thanks to Sue's unwavering support, Jerry is in a very different place. **"I am getting on with life now and sight loss is not defining me."**

Last year, we started supporting 564 new blind veterans



To support veterans like Jerry, please donate today!



Securing a bright future

You may remember hearing from our President, Colin Williamson, earlier this year in our VE Day 80 commemorative magazine, *After the Darkness*. Colin spoke about the lasting legacy of those who served during the dark days of the Second World War and how we must remember them.



Colin Williamson, President of Blind Veterans UK

Colin has shared with us his pledge to leave a gift in his Will to Blind Veterans UK. He wants to honour those who bravely served during those dark days by ensuring a bright future for blind veterans who served to protect our freedom.

“Blind Veterans UK supports veterans at any stage in their life, no matter how they lost their sight. The charity has made a promise to look after them for the rest of their lives because that’s what they deserve: lasting support for their dedication to our country.”

To find out more about leaving a gift in your Will, call Alice on 020 7616 7923, email giftsinwills@blindveterans.org.uk, or visit blindveterans.org.uk/leaveagift

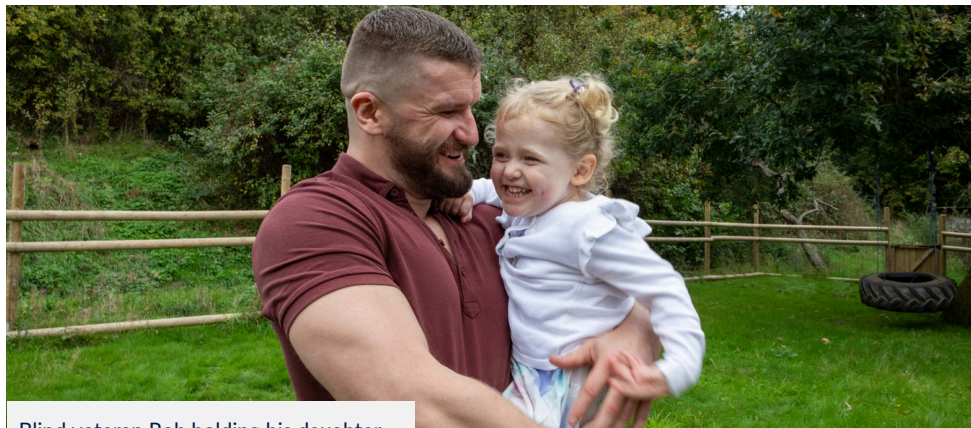
Colin understands the challenges of sight loss only too well. A former member of the Royal Artillery, he lost his sight following a serious assault. He has volunteered and worked for the charity since 2005 and became the sixth President of Blind Veterans UK in 2017.

“I’m proud and privileged to contribute to the future of blind veterans. I know that a gift in my Will will help to look after the next generations of blind veterans and help provide the same quality of care that is available for veterans today as a result of your incredible support.

“You too could help blind veterans both today and tomorrow by pledging a gift in your own Will. Even a small percentage, after remembering friends and family, can go a long way.

“I invite you to join me in helping to secure a bright future for those who have served.”

The difference a bright future can make



Blind veteran Rob holding his daughter

You may also remember blind veteran Rob, from previous editions of Debrief. He suffered severe head and facial injuries when an improvised explosive device went off, while he was serving in Afghanistan. One of his eyes was destroyed immediately, while the other was so badly damaged that it was later removed in hospital.

Today, Rob is not only a proud father, but a powerful role model for his children. He loves that they see him

getting on with life and living independently despite his injuries. Incredibly, he's even become a world champion in the Brazilian martial art of Jiu Jitsu!

Rob's journey is nothing short of inspiring – but this would never have been possible without the support he has received. Gifts in Wills, like the one pledged by our President Colin, fund the support for five in ten of our veterans like Rob.



Rob getting out and about with the help of his white cane



Scan the QR code to read directly from Rob just how important gifts in Wills are to young veterans like him.

You could win £1,000 every week!

Play for the chance to win one of 33 prizes, while also helping rebuild the lives of blind veterans.

£1 per play

PLUS
£15,000
prize up for
grabs four times
a year



Rebuilding
lives after
sight loss



Sign up online at
blindveterans.org.uk/lottery

You must be 18 or over and live in Great Britain to play or claim a prize. Full Terms and Conditions apply, please see lottery.blindveterans.org.uk/lottery/terms-conditions for more details.



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