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**Quiz answers from page 38** 1. Peter Jackson 2. Notts County 3. Volcanos 4. Cherry blossoms 5. The Nile 6. The Scream 7. Roys Rolls 8. Strasbourg 9. The Whip 10. The Rolling Stones



# Review

The journal of Blind Veterans UK  
**May 2026**



## Finding a new way forward

**Richard's journey through rehabilitation**

**Inside:**

**Our new Chair Giles**

**Op Telic: Ben's story of Iraq**

**Cairngorms rescue hero Alan**



Rebuilding lives after sight loss



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# Contents

- 04** Chairman's welcome
- 06** Our contact details
- 07** News
- 09** In your community
- 12** Tiera: an AI app for independence
- 14** Richard's journey of rehabilitation
- 17** Get involved in Armed Forces Month
- 18** Building bonds in the workshop
- 20** A life changed forever - Op Telic
- 22** Into the white: A Cairngorms rescue
- 26** How are national services can help
- 29** Choosing the right sunglasses
- 31** Member voice
- 34** National Creative Programme
- 37** Your crafting stories
- 38** Quiz time
- 39** Family news
- 40** In memory

**Building bonds:  
Members Kevin and  
Brian in the workshop**

## On the cover

Blind veteran Richard  
with ROVI Lizzie at our  
Rustington Centre.



# Learning from our history to shape our future

A message from your Chair of Trustees **Giles Peel**

It's an honour to write to you for the first time as Blind Veterans UK's new Chair of Trustees. As I take on this role, I often find myself reflecting on the remarkable history of our charity



**Our new Chair, Giles Peel**

and the values that have guided it for more than 110 years. From my early discussions, it's clear to me that at every stage in our long history, our strength has come from staying true to the principles on which we were built – courage, compassion and a determination to enable blind veterans to live independent, fulfilling lives.

One of the things that makes Blind Veterans UK so distinctive is that our story began not with an organisation, but with a commitment. Sir Arthur Pearson's resolve that no one should be left to battle sight loss alone created a legacy that continues to shape us today. Through two world wars, major social change and countless shifts in how care and support are delivered, that promise has remained constant: we will be here for you.



**Blind Veteran Brian Eldridge carries the Blind Veterans UK Standard with pride**

As the world has changed around us, it has sometimes been necessary to adapt – modernising our services, embracing new technology and reshaping how we reach those who need us most. But whenever the path feels uncertain, it should always be our founding principles that give us the clarity we need. When we focus on what matters most – helping blind veterans rebuild their confidence, regain their independence and rediscover a sense of belonging – we confirm our purpose.

Over the coming months, I'm looking forward to meeting many of you, plus our volunteers and staff. I have

“One of the things that makes Blind Veterans UK so distinctive is that our story began not with an organisation, but with a commitment”

been very lucky to serve previously as the Chair of Combat Stress and The Regular Forces Employment Charity and know the power of the veterans' sector. This community extends far beyond those of us who served – it includes our families and friends, carers and all who support charities like ours. This is something we must continue to protect and look to grow.

Looking ahead, we know we will face new challenges, just as every generation before us has. But by grounding ourselves in our history and staying faithful to the values that built this charity, we can evolve the charity to support you in ever more advanced and innovative ways. I am confident we will continue to serve blind veterans with the same passion, dignity and purpose that have defined this charity for over a century.

Thank you for warmly welcoming me into this extraordinary family. I look forward to serving you in the years ahead. 🇬🇧



## Contact details

**Contact address** Blind Veterans UK,  
York House, Wetherby Road,  
York, YO26 7NH  
**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**.



AGENTURFOTOGRAFIN / ADOBE STOCK

**Rustington Centre: 01903 945 300**

**Review Editor: 0300 111 22 33** or  
[revieweditor@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:revieweditor@blindveterans.org.uk)

**Feedback:** To give us feedback on any of our services, please email us at [supporter.services@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:supporter.services@blindveterans.org.uk) or call **0300 111 22 33**.

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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**.

### 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.**



## News

### Blind veteran set to climb Ben Nevis at 87

A National Service veteran will attempt to climb the highest mountain in the British Isles – at the age of 87. John, from Buckinghamshire, is set to take on the challenge on 27 June to raise money for our charity, which has supported him since he lost his sight.

John says: “It would be wonderful to reach the top of Ben Nevis. I’d be proving that age and sight loss are not a barrier to any challenge you set your mind on.”

John credits his 16-year-old granddaughter Lilly as being his inspiration to climb Ben Nevis. Lilly is hoping to follow in John’s military footsteps and join the Army Medical Corps later this year. John says:

“I’ve been supporting Lilly with her fitness training; we’ve been going out walking together and I’ve been teaching her exercises to build her core strength. As a result, I came up with the idea of setting myself a challenge.”

Lilly says: “I want to be a combat medic. My grandad has been supporting me



**John with his granddaughter, Lilly**

to really follow what I want to do, which has been amazing. It makes me very proud to think I’ll be following in his footsteps and excited from all his stories about his time in the Army.”

John completed National Service in the Army with the Royal Engineers as a sapper between 1958 and 1960 and then enlisted part-time with the National Service to serve on call for another three years.

He was registered sight impaired in 2019 with age-related macular degeneration and started to receive our support four years ago.

■ **You can support John’s effort through his just giving page.**  
[www.justgiving.com/page/johnbanfield](http://www.justgiving.com/page/johnbanfield) →

## Simon publishes his latest book

Simon Mahoney is a passionate advocate, author and community leader whose work spans local, regional and national organisations connected to sight loss and accessibility.

In recognition of his remarkable resilience and achievement, Simon recently received a Founder's Day Award for Life Beyond Sight Loss – the highest honour awarded by Blind Veterans UK. The award celebrates veterans who have demonstrated exceptional determination in adapting to life after sight loss, and Simon's story exemplifies exactly that.



Author Simon Mahoney

Already a published author of numerous books, Simon is now releasing his latest work, **Magic In the Mess, or How not Can't** in which he challenges assumptions about disability and asks readers to reflect on how labels shape identity and opportunity. Do we feel empowered or disempowered by the word 'disability'? Are we truly disabled, or do we simply have altered abilities that require different understanding?

Drawing on nearly a decade of lived experience of sight loss, Simon explores the fear and denial that still exist within the field of sight impairment – and altered abilities more broadly. His book calls for a shift in mindset; one that prioritises proactive, holistic rehabilitation and encourages service providers to work alongside individuals and their families in ways that enable rather than disable.

At its heart, Magic in the Mess is a hopeful and empowering message. Simon invites readers to consider a simple but transformative question: what if, instead of focusing on "can't", we chose to ask "how"? Whatever our altered ability, he reminds us, that choice remains ours. 🍷

■ You can purchase Simon's latest book at [www.wingingitblind.com](http://www.wingingitblind.com)



## In your community

Some of the recent social gatherings across the country, bringing Members together in their local areas

### In Dorset

Members from across Dorset came together for our first social of the year. We were fortunate enough to be able to host this at the Poole yacht club, which is not normally open to non-members – the clubhouse was made available to us specially as they support our work.

It was rewarding to bring Members together who had not met before, and to realise how much they shared in common. For one Member, Geoff, who has received our support for five years, this was the first time he had met with anyone else from the charity. He is thinking about a visit to Rustington after all the encouragement from the others. →



Members at the clubhouse in Dorset

## In Stoke

Members had an amazing day working with clay to produce some wonderful creations. Our Members were bursting with ideas and truly enjoyed shaping the materials and experimenting. Some lovely creations were made, despite comments of "I'm glad you can't see mine!" muttered to each other, in humour of course. Tea and cake went down a treat after getting all the creative juices flowing.

## In Rustington

We were delighted to host our local partners, the Veterans Volunteer Service (VVS), for breakfast last weekend to join our WAMs on their



**Clay creations in Stoke**



**The gathering at Rustington**

welcome week. The VVS support Members locally, and Centre activities more widely, at every opportunity so it was great to invite them to hold their regular veterans breakfast here for a fantastic morning of comradeship, impactful conversations and lots of laughter over a fantastic breakfast.

## In Blackpool

Members had an inspiring day discovering the Showtown Interactive Museum, followed by coffee and cakes. Showtown is a truly immersive experience, with displays celebrating the people and performances of Blackpool through the years: the history of the seaside, the trams, the circus, the illuminations, magic, music, dance for Strictly fans and much more.



**Members in Blackpool**

The museum is fully accessible for both physical and sensory disabilities.

Members also shared their own memories and experiences of visiting Blackpool attractions from years gone by. The Members told us how much they enjoyed the event and praised the Showtown team as excellent hosts. All in all, a great day was enjoyed by our Members and colleagues.

## In Hykeham

The team in Lincoln welcomed seven Members, along with their partners, carers and family members, to the new social group in Hykeham, just outside Lincoln. Staff at The Hykeham Manor made everyone feel at home, and



**The group at Hykeham Manor**

the group enjoyed a relaxed morning catching up over coffee and breakfast together.

One Member, diagnosed only last year, said how pleased they were that the group was starting up and how valuable it felt to meet others in a similar position and to learn from them. There was a real buzz around the table, with Members swapping hints and tips about living with sight loss, chatting about the next meetup, and keen to pass on details to others who might like to join in the future. 🇬🇧

**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.**

# Tiera: An AI-sighted guide to greater independence

Blind Veteran **Richard Jenkins** is the Strategic Advisor at Touchpulse, an innovative company developing AI-driven navigation technology. He introduces Tiera, a new navigation app designed for people with visual impairment

At Blind Veterans UK, we share a strong tradition of resilience and a determination to live independently and confidently. But independence is not about doing everything alone – it's about having the right tools to help with getting out and about, making decisions and staying in control.

Tiera is a new navigation app from Touchpulse, designed to support people with sight loss in their everyday journeys. It's built to be simple to use, helpful when needed and quiet when not. It works with your phone and is designed to support, not replace, your own judgement.

Using Tiera is straightforward. You can speak to the AI assistant and ask it where you want to go, whether

there are local coffee shops nearby, or to find a particular place such as a station entrance, shop or bus stop. This makes it much easier to start a journey without having to work through complicated menus.

Once you are moving, Tiera's Checkpoints help make sure you are walking in the right direction. They automatically monitor your route and let you know if you are going the wrong way, so you can correct yourself early and keep moving with confidence.

The app can also be tailored to suit how much information you want to hear as you walk. Some people may want fuller guidance, while others might prefer only key details. For example, you may choose simply road names,

nearby bus stops or important turning points, rather than every shop, sign or tree along the route. That means the app can work in a way that feels calm, useful and personal.

If you ever need extra help, you can call a sighted assistant from the app. This gives you access to human support at the point you need it, whether that's to get out of a difficult situation, confirm where you are, or help with a quick everyday task.

Tiera is also part of a wider shift in accessible technology. Having had a long career in the technology industry, I can tell you that we're now living in a time when advances in technology,

mobile device connectivity, social demand and commercial pressure are combining to bring more accessible tools into everyday life. Tiera is one example of how that change can directly support greater independence.

The app is free to use and is still being shaped by feedback from users. By joining the early user programme, Blind Veterans UK Members can help influence how it develops and what it prioritises in future.

Tiera does not take control away from you. It gives you more information, more confidence and another layer of support when you need it most.

[www.touchpulse.nl/tiera](http://www.touchpulse.nl/tiera) 🇳🇱



Tiera helps you navigate outdoors...



...as well as indoors

# Finding a way forward

## Richard's journey through rehabilitation

Richard is a blind veteran with an extraordinary life behind him – and a renewed sense of purpose ahead.

Now in his 80s, his sight loss journey began subtly. “The right eye had been going for years,” he explains. “Eventually, the left one developed a cataract, but the hospital wouldn't remove it until the optician could no longer correct it with lenses.”

When the cataract was finally removed, his recovery didn't follow the same path as friends who praised their post-op clarity. “The next day, I just had a mist in front of my eye. Something wasn't right.”

A specialist took one look and confirmed the change – Richard's macular degeneration had turned from dry to wet AMD. He was immediately referred for treatment. “I had eight

months of injections,” he recalls. “They didn't hurt – just a bit of pressure. But in the end they weren't helping anymore.”

The change wasn't just physical, of course. The loss of sight impacted Richard practically and emotionally. A lifelong brass band musician – having played since age nine – he could no longer read music. “I could still play, but not being able to read the parts, I was lost. That was the hardest thing.”

But things were about to get even harder. In April one year ago, Richard was hit by a car coming out of a COVID jab appointment. Already recovering from knee surgery, the impact left him with severe soft tissue damage to his foot and knocked his mobility and confidence back even further. “I was back on two sticks again,” he says, “It felt like a big step backward.”



**Richard Wallis at our Rustington Centre**

He reached out for help and after receiving an overwhelming amount of information from other charities, he found that it was our rehabilitation program that made the biggest impact.

In fact, within just a week of his first stay at our Rustington Centre, Richard felt transformed. “My confidence went through the roof,” he says. “I was a different man.”

“Blind Veterans UK has been brilliant,” he continues. “The physiotherapy, the cane training, the kitchen skills... it's all about helping you to stay as independent as possible for as long



**Enjoying his white cane training**

as possible – and that's all I want. The staff have been exceptional; especially my ROVI Lizzie, who has really helped build up my confidence.”

Richard also made new friends with other veterans, quickly bonding over shared stories and familiar camaraderie. “It was like being back in the service,” he laughs. “It really lifted me.”

Richard completed his white cane training and arrived home to find his brand new white cane awaiting him. Not one to sit around, he committed himself to daily exercises, practising cane use, and slowly transitioning →

from walking with two sticks to just one. "I've been walking with one stick for ten weeks now", he says proudly. "My goal is always to have a spare hand, especially for using my white cane."

Tech has helped too. Using his iPad and iPhone as magnifiers, he's learned to manage his own emails and read his documents. "I just needed someone to show me how," he says.

Before he lost his sight, Richard spent 23 years in the Royal Navy, much of it in submarines. He trained as an electrical engineer and travelled the world, spending time in the West



**Richard and Lizzie at Rustington**

**"I'm walking again, I'm learning the white cane and I'm cooking."**

Indies. "I loved it", he says. "We even started a steel band out there."

Throughout it all, music was a central thread. From volunteer bands to championship section ensembles, Richard played baritone for decades. "Being told I was good enough for the first baritone part in a championship band... I'll never forget that."

Now, with the help of Blind Veterans UK, he's looking forward to the future. "I'm walking again, I'm learning the white cane, and I'm cooking." He chuckles about his beloved stir fries: "Never the same twice. I just rummage through the cupboards and as long as I've got soy sauce and Chinese five-spice, I'm good to go."

Richard's story is a testament to how support, perseverance and the right tools can empower someone to reclaim their life after sight loss. He's quick to credit the staff: "They couldn't be more helpful. They just get it and nothing is too much for them."

Meanwhile, his ROVI Lizzie is so proud, she says, "He's like a different man to when I first met him." 🇬🇧



# Rally the troops for Armed Forces Month

Get involved and raise funds for Blind Veterans UK

There's no better month than June to honour and celebrate the sacrifices and dedication of our Armed Forces and their families, past and present, while also raising vital funds to support our blind veterans. Our Armed Forces Month campaign offers a wide range of ideas for activities and events that you can organise within your local community. These can help mark key dates such as the anniversaries of D-Day (6 June) and the end of the Falklands War (14 June), as well as national occasions including Reservist Day (24 June) and Armed Forces Day (27 June).

## Here are just a few ideas:

- Mark 44 years since the end of the Falklands War by walking or running 44km during the month of June. Work alone or share the distance with family and friends.
- Approach your local place of worship to see if they could hold their Sunday collection for Blind Veterans UK.
- Organise a social event during June – a quiz night, bingo event or afternoon tea.

If you and your family and friends would like to get involved, simply visit our website [www.blindveterans.org.uk/support-us/fundraise-for-us/armed-forces-month-2026/](http://www.blindveterans.org.uk/support-us/fundraise-for-us/armed-forces-month-2026/) for more ideas and explore the downloadable resources available to help you plan your chosen activity.

- **If you know a group or a local business you think might like to get involved in Armed Forces Month and support Blind Veterans UK, please do contact us at [fundraising@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@blindveterans.org.uk). Alternatively, call 0300 111 22 33 and ask to speak to member of our Community Partnerships team.** 🇬🇧



JEFF WHYTE / ADOBE STOCK

# Building bonds in the woodshop

How a long-lost passion has transformed blind veteran Kevin's life – and inspired new Member Brian too



**Kevin (right) and Brian (left) in the workshop**

Member Kevin Nugent from Cheshire first discovered woodworking as a schoolboy, but never had another opportunity to explore it until decades later, when he came to stay at our Centre. He explains: "Lee in Arts and Crafts took me over to the lathe and it all came back to me. It was pretty much the same as the one I had used at school."

From that moment, Kevin developed a strong passion for woodworking and continued to hone his skills during subsequent visits to the Centre. He says: "Lee was brilliant. He even found me an old lathe in the basement, which I took home with me. He really built up my confidence and taught me that as long as everything is set up safely and there's good lighting, there's nothing I can't do. I owe so much to Lee and I'll always be grateful for everything he did for me."

Kevin began by making bowls before branching out into candlestick holders, tea light holders, card holders and many other items. He recalls: "I started taking items to veterans' get-togethers and, to my surprise, people wanted to buy them. I was then even asked to make a bowl for HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh, which was presented to her at the opening of the Rustington Centre in 2024."

Kevin joined the Army at 18 and spent a year with the infantry before being medically discharged due to his eyesight. He says: "I was on the range and things were a bit blurry, so I thought I should get it checked out. It turned out to be retinitis pigmentosa. My sight has been in gradual decline ever since, and I'd describe it now as like walking through fog."

Earlier this year Kevin's Support Worker, Lily, asked him to get in touch with new Member Brian to welcome him to the charity. Kevin says: "We hit it off straightaway as we're both into woodworking. I think our conversation got him back into it, as the next time I spoke to him he'd ordered some new equipment."

Since then, Kevin and Brian's friendship has continued to grow. They've spent time working together in the workshop, and Brian even



**Brian (right) presenting Kevin (left) with his framed Founders Award**

framed Kevin's Founder's Award for Creativity. Kevin says: "What a feeling it was to receive that award. It was so lovely. My wife nearly fell off her chair! And it was so nice of Brian to frame it for me."

Lily Clayton, Kevin's Community Support Worker, says: "Kevin's skill, generosity and enthusiasm show how creativity can connect people, forge friendships and inspire others." 🌟

# A life changed forever in Iraq

On 22 May, we marked 15 years since the final withdrawal of British forces in Iraq, known as Op Telic. For brave soldier **Ben Shaw**, life would never be the same



**Ben Shaw**

As a young soldier, Ben was deployed twice in Iraq with the 3rd Battalion Rifles – first during the invasion phase and later in what became Operation Telic. His role was to patrol bases, communities and key infrastructure.

Five days before he was due home from his second tour, in February 2007, his patrol was attacked. The threat had been growing: the days felt calmer, but the nights were dangerous. As dusk fell, his convoy moved along the Basra River. “Just as we were coming up to a slip road, they detonated the IED and it hit our vehicle,” Ben recalls. “I was driving the lead vehicle.”

Despite critical injuries, he kept driving. “They would work out where we’d go after the first explosion, what our actions would be and set up a

second ambush. “It was very clear in my mind there could be a secondary or tertiary attack... You just have to drive and get out of the kill zone.”

He drove until the vehicle finally crashed. His arm and leg were shredded. Shrapnel tore into his skull. One eye was destroyed immediately, the other was severely damaged.

A colleague ran to help him, stunned by what he saw. “My head was resting against the glass and there was a lot of blood. He thought I must be dead. But then he said I looked up at him and went, “You alright, mate?” They just yanked me out of the wagon.”

In the chaos that followed, Ben remembers touching his own face – and realising the full extent of his injuries. Medics tried to seal his remaining eye to stop the fluid leaking out. He was taken to an American hospital in Iraq, then Germany, and eventually home. Surgeons saved his arm and removed the shrapnel from his skull. In Selly Oak Hospital, Ben finally asked the question weighing on him. “Will I see again?” The doctor told him gently, ‘We had to remove both of your eyes.’

Ben describes the moment calmly. For 20 seconds, he thought about the things he’d no longer do – drive, play computer games. Then he told himself,

“There’s nothing you can do about it now. It’s just the way it is.” He refused to be overwhelmed. “It’s part of the job,” he says. Ben always knew the risks. “If it hadn’t been me, it would’ve been one of my mates. And there’s no way I would ever have wanted them to go through what I did. I was glad it was me and not them.”

Back home, Ben received early support from Edinburgh RNIB before turning to Blind Veterans UK. With a baby on the way, he was desperate to master independent living skills. During several stays at our Centre, he learnt to cook and manage daily life using equipment he never knew existed. The stays also gave his wife a much-needed break.

Ben’s rehabilitation was so successful that he returned to snowboarding in early 2018. By 2020, he had won Gold at the European equivalent of the Paralympic Games in the blind gated slalom. He even returned to computer gaming and is now helping companies to improve accessibility for players with sight loss.

Now 43, it’s staggering how far he’s come: from being presumed dead to becoming an ambitious father, athlete and advocate. Ben’s story is a powerful reminder of what determination – and the right support – can achieve. 🇬🇧

# Into the white

## Alan Lockey and the courage of the Cairngorms Rescue

In November 1971, amid the brutal winter conditions of Scotland's Cairngorm Mountains, a rescue mission unfolded that would become one of the most remarkable examples of courage, skill and teamwork in British search and rescue history.

At the heart of that mission was one of our own Blind Veterans, Lieutenant Alan Lockey Royal Navy, whose calm leadership and flying ability helped save a life against overwhelming odds. The story is vividly captured in a chapter of a yet to be published aviation autobiography by Philip Shaw, who was Lockey's young co-pilot during the operation. Shaw's account is not just a record of

**The mission began when a group of eight, two experienced mountain leaders and six teenagers, failed to return from a trek in the Cairngorms**

events, but a tribute to Alan Lockey's consummate flying skills, calm and steady character, and quiet courage in the face of extreme danger.

The mission began when a group of eight, two experienced mountain leaders and six teenagers, failed to return from a trek in the Cairngorms. As Shaw recounts, "The weather was very bad, with heavy snowfalls and high winds." Conditions rapidly deteriorated into a deadly mix of blizzards, freezing temperatures and near-zero visibility. Search teams on the ground struggled, and the decision was made to deploy a Royal Air Force Whirlwind helicopter to assist.

Soon after, Shaw and Lockey's crew joined the effort in a Royal Navy Sea King helicopter. Shaw, then inexperienced in mountain rescue flying, was thrust into a situation unlike anything he had faced before. Lockey, however, remained entirely composed and confident. Shaw recalls: "My pilot and captain was the delightful and gentle Lieutenant



**Pilot Alan Lockey in The Sea King helicopter**

Alan Lockey, and we were all very fortunate to have such a steady character leading us that day."

Reaching the mountains proved the first major challenge. The aircraft had to navigate beneath a thick blanket of low cloud, flying very low to maintain visual contact with the ground. "Under no circumstances could we afford to enter the cloud," Shaw writes, citing the deadly risks of icing and disorientation. Lockey guided the aircraft through winding valleys and over frozen terrain, making constant decisions to keep the crew safe while pressing forward with the mission.

When they reached the search area, the situation grew even more perilous. Turbulence battered the helicopter, and visibility dropped further as snow showers intensified. Shaw describes the conditions as "truly evil...extreme conditions. I had never experienced anything like it." Yet throughout, Lockey's calm demeanour never faltered. His steady presence helped anchor the crew, particularly Shaw, who admits: "I was way out of my comfort zone."

At one point, the crew inadvertently entered a whiteout – every pilot's nightmare. Shaw recalls the



moment vividly: “For the first and last time, we ended up in the cloud, in ‘whiteout’ conditions of zero visibility. Now that was scary!” In that instant, Lockey’s training and instinct took over. “Alan immediately but calmly pulled in the power, went onto instruments and climbed up and away from the high ground.” It was a decisive action that likely saved the aircraft and everyone on board.

Despite the danger, Lockey persisted. The mission took a critical turn when Flight Sergeant George Bruce of the RAF Kinloss Mountain rescue Team joined the effort. Using his intimate knowledge of the terrain, Bruce guided the helicopter deeper



REPORTERS interview one of the rescue helicopter pilots, Sub.-Lt. Philip Shaw.

### Phil Shaw after the rescue mission

into the mountains, even stepping out onto the snow to lead them on foot when visibility became too poor. Lockey then performed one of the most delicate manoeuvres in aviation, hover-taxiing the helicopter just above the ground, following Bruce through the storm.

Shaw describes the extraordinary feat: “Alan very carefully and skilfully hover-taxied just above the snow-covered ground, following very close behind George, in visibility down to a mere 10-15 metres at times.” It was flying at the very edge of possibility, requiring immense concentration, trust and precision.

After a painstaking climb through the mountains, they reached the site near Curran Shelter. Tragically, most of the group had perished, buried in the snow. But one teenager, Raymond Leslie, had survived. Severely suffering from hypothermia and frostbite, he was in urgent need of evacuation.

The Rescue itself was swift but critical. Shaw and another crew member helped bring Raymond onboard before Lockey lifted the helicopter out of the mountains. Shaw noted the urgency: “We took off with as much haste as the conditions would allow and once clear of the cloud, flew at maximum speed.”



### Despite the danger, The Sea King helicopter manages to land

Raymond survived, thanks in no small part to the skill and determination of Alan Lockey and the crew.

Throughout Shaw’s account, what stands out is not just Lockey’s technical ability, but his character. In an environment defined by fear and uncertainty, he remained unflappable. Shaw reflects: “The seemingly imperturbable and calming influence from Alan filled the chasm of my insecurity and fear.” It is a powerful testament to leadership under pressure, quiet, steady and deeply reassuring.

Today, Alan Lockey is a blind veteran, having been registered with a sight impairment in 2022 with age-related

macular degeneration in both eyes. His actions during the Cairngorms rescue mission exemplify the very best of service: a willingness to face danger head-on, to protect others, and to lead with calm determination when it matters most. This has now evolved into a new form of quiet strength for Alan as he learns to live independently with sight loss.

Philip Shaw has written this record of the story, in large part to give Alan Lockey the long-delayed recognition that he deserves for his outstanding flying performance and bravery on that day. Shaw went on to have a long, varied and exciting flying career himself, and continues to fly to this day. 🇬🇧



ANASTASIA / ADOBE STOCK

# At your service

## Member Support Hub, Recycling Services and Digital Inclusion

What do we do and how to get in touch for support

### Member Support Hub:

Our MeSH Helpline is often the first point of contact for Members seeking support, advice or simply someone to listen. Staffed by a dedicated

and knowledgeable team, the team provide quick, compassionate assistance across a wide range of needs – from navigating digital access and communications to signposting

specialist services and arranging follow up support. Many calls including technology related issues are resolved quickly at the first point of contact.

Every call, message or email is handled with care, ensuring members feel heard, understood and supported throughout their journey. By taking a proactive and coordinated approach, the Helpline helps smooth the path to the right services, making support easier to access and more effective.

### Recycling Services:

The Blind Veterans UK Recycling Team plays a vital role in ensuring blind and vision-impaired veterans receive the assistive equipment they need to stay independent, confident, and connected. By refurbishing and re-issuing high-quality assistive technology equipment, the team helps veterans carry out everyday tasks that many people take for granted.

From reading letters, recipes and important medical information to writing notes, greetings cards, managing appointments, and staying on top of nutrition or medication, recycled equipment provides practical support tailored to each person's needs. Veterans can also enjoy treasured activities such as looking at family photos, accessing talking books or using magnification tools to

engage with hobbies – all thanks to the technology the team prepares and provides.

Every item is carefully cleaned, tested and delivered with attention to detail. Veterans also receive personalised training, ensuring they feel confident using their equipment at home. This hands-on approach means we don't just provide equipment – we provide reassurance and independence.

By extending the life of equipment, the Recycling team saves the charity thousands of pounds each year while making sure every veteran can access the tools that make daily life safer, easier, and more fulfilling. →





### Digital Inclusion Rehabilitation:

The Blind Veterans UK Digital Inclusion Rehabilitation service empowers blind and vision-impaired Members to live confidently and independently through personalised, practical support, advice and specialist rehabilitation. We help Members make the most of technology and access the internet in ways that enhance all areas of life.

A key focus is supporting Members to remain independent at home by using accessible devices, smart speakers, magnification tools and adaptive techniques to manage everyday tasks safely. We also help Members keep in touch with family and friends through accessible phones, tablets, video calling and email.

For Members seeking greater confidence outdoors, we offer guidance on tools that support getting out and about, including navigation apps, public transport information, and safetravel aids.

We also help people enjoy hobbies and leisure activities such as radio, podcasts, audio description, browsing the internet, games, and creative pursuits. In addition, we support Members to shop online and manage personal banking through accessible platforms.

Our team can also assist with reading independently using audiobooks, screen readers and scanning apps, and we provide skills and advice for those who are studying or working. Wherever someone is on their sight loss journey, we help them stay connected, capable, and in control through technology.

Over the coming months, we will share a series of examples in Review of how these national services have practically supported Members. 🇬🇧

### How to contact:

Phone 01273 391447

Email [mesh@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:mesh@blindveterans.org.uk)



# Choosing the right sunglasses for low vision

With summer just around the corner, it's the perfect time to think about what to look for when buying sunglasses



AZWIN / ADOBE STOCK

**Protecting your eyes against UV rays and reducing glare can make all the difference for people with low vision**

For people with sight loss, choosing the right sunglasses is crucial. Not only do they protect your eyes from UV rays, but they also help to limit glare.

### Why UV protection matters

UV rays from sunlight can harm your eyes over time. UVA and UVB rays are especially damaging, and without proper protection they can lead to:

- **Photokeratitis:** A painful sunburn of the cornea, often caused by high-altitude exposure.
- **Cataracts:** Clouding of the eye's lens, leading to blurred vision and requiring surgery.
- **Macular Degeneration:** Damage to the retina's central area, affecting detailed vision.
- **Eyelid Skin Cancer:** Basal and squamous cell carcinomas can develop, requiring treatment. →

## Choosing the right sunglasses

- **UV protection:** The CE or UV400 mark on the frame means that the sunglasses have UV protection.
- **Lens darkness:** Dark lenses reduce brightness but don't guarantee UV protection.
- **Size of lens:** Sunglasses that fit over prescription glasses can offer added protection from glare, as can wrap around glasses.
- **Use of glasses:** When participating in sports, for example skiing, ensure the correct sunglasses are used to limit glare. There may be the option to have clip on lenses onto glasses which have UV protection.
- **Medical reasons:** After eye surgery, for example cataract surgery sunglasses or shades may be advised to protect eyes from the sun as they are more sensitive after surgery. Glasses and shields will also limit irritation from wind, dust and pollen.
- **Always seek advice:** Whenever getting new sunglasses, it's always worth talking to your optician, Low Vision Aid Clinic or Vision Rehabilitation Specialist, to ensure tailored advice and support

## Special considerations

People with conditions like photophobia, cataracts, glaucoma, macular degeneration or retinitis

pigmentosa may be especially sensitive to sunlight, glare and reflections and benefit greatly from UV-protective eyewear.

## Top tips

- Choose well-fitting frames with good coverage from the sides and top, to limit glare and reflections.
- Think about your routines and how you adapt in different lighting situations. You may need a couple of different pairs of filters or sunglasses depending on time of year.
- Consider photochromic lenses if you move between indoor and outdoor environments often as these adjust to the changes in lighting gradually.

## AI and sunglasses

As technology continues to advance, there are glasses that can be customised with lenses and filters that have AI features. These do not replace other mobility aids, like long canes.

## Smart features include:

- Bone conduction audio
- AI-powered cameras
- GPS and obstacle detection

## Need help choosing?

- **For advice, contact MeSH at [mesh@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:mesh@blindveterans.org.uk) or call them on 01273 391447.**



Listen here



Members at the Centotaph in London, Remembrance 2025

# Member voice

Our calendar of national events for 2026/27

We are delighted to offer a range of upcoming military dinners and events for Members and their guests. These occasions bring our Members together, creating opportunities for camaraderie, socialising with peers, and enjoying memorable new experiences in a warm and welcoming setting. For the full list of events, visit [www.blindveterans.org.uk/events](http://www.blindveterans.org.uk/events)

## 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/events/military-dinner-the-royal-welsh-2026/](http://www.blindveterans.org.uk/events/military-dinner-the-royal-welsh-2026/) 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/events/military-dinner-hms-calliope-2026/](http://www.blindveterans.org.uk/events/military-dinner-hms-calliope-2026/) 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 Honnington**  
**Officers Mess**  
**Bury St Edmunds**  
**IP31 1EE**

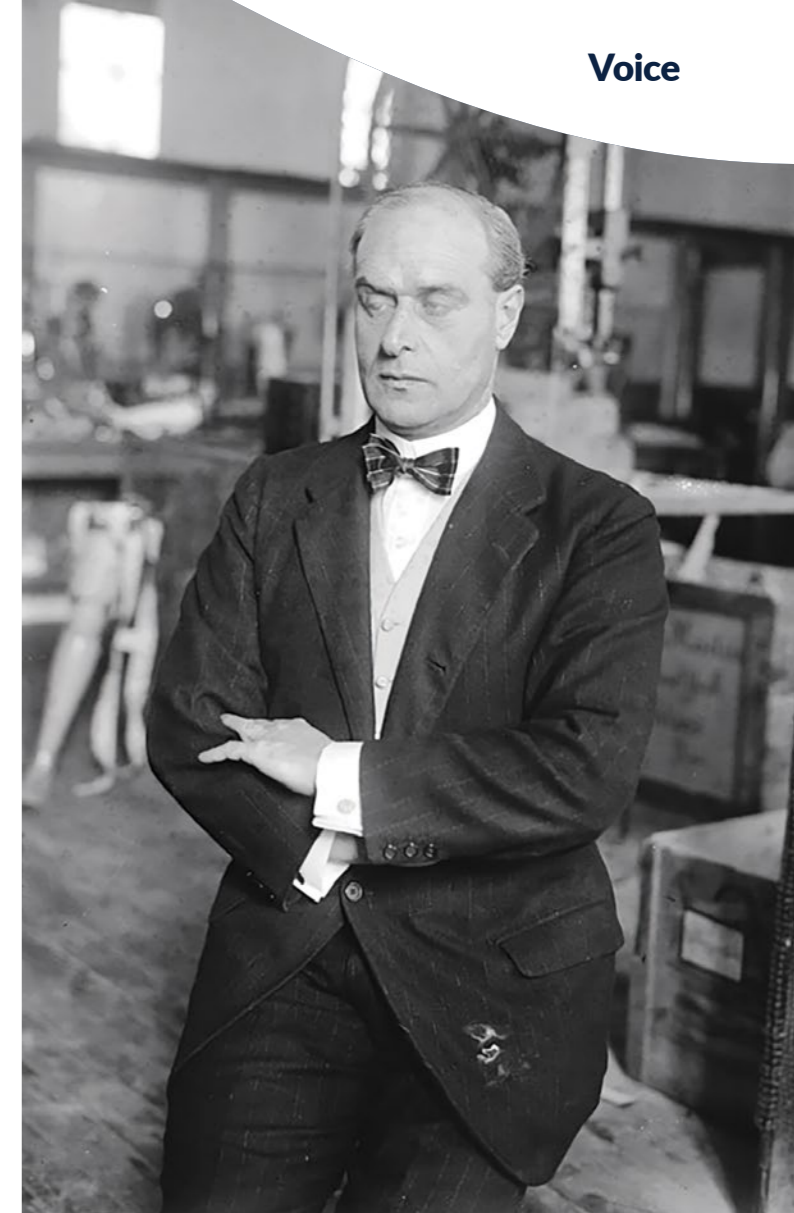
Founder's Day Awards will also be presented during the dinner for a small number of 'Highly Commended' award recipients.

## Remembrance Weekend

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
- **Engagement Dinner**  
Double Tree Hilton Hotel,  
Edinburgh Sunday, 8 November
- **Remembrance 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**



**Sir Arthur Pearson**

- 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](http://www.blindveterans.org.uk/events) or by calling the team on 0300 111 2233. 📞

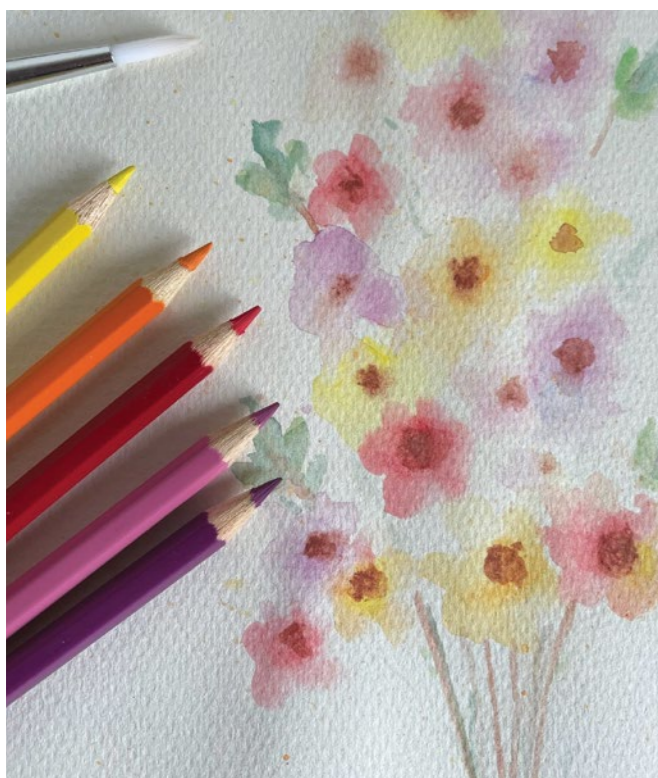
# National Creative Project

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

Here are the latest projects from the NCP – you can try as many as you like. To request a kit, leave a message on the NCP voicemail on **01273 391 447** or email us at **[ncwt@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:ncwt@blindveterans.org.uk)**.

You can also request a kit via **[blindveterans.org.uk/member](http://blindveterans.org.uk/member)**.

**Greetings cards papercraft:** We have designed this papercraft kit for those of you who enjoy collage



**Holiday watercolours**



**Deer head wooden model**



**The Jeep model is ready to go**

artwork. Inside your pack, you'll find a variety of paper and card in complimentary colours. You'll also have a selection of stickers and other decorative items to inspire you.

We'd also encourage you to search around for any paper and card you can recycle to create a personalised card. There will be blank greetings cards enclosed, plus a small blank notebook in case you want to make a scrapbook. This kit makes a lovely long-term project to dip in and out of.

**(Suitable for beginners.)**

### **Jeep model:**

We hope you enjoy this 71-piece vehicle model. The kit comes with step-by-step graphic instructions and hints and tips. A big thank you to member Glynne Palmer for his ideas and support with this project! **(Moderate difficulty or confident beginners.)**

### **Tutti frutti mandala**

**mosaic:** We've redesigned





our popular mandala mosaics specially to feature larger tiles. The design is made up of bright, fruity coloured circular and square tiles in concentric circles and is slightly easier than our usual mandalas. As always, tiles will be separated for you into labelled bags with a step-by-step large print instruction guide. **(Suitable for beginners.)**

#### Also available:

- Holiday landscapes watercolour painting
- Deer head simple wooden model

#### A note about mosaics based on your feedback:

We're considering the sustainability of our mosaic kits. If you don't need glue, grout or tweezers, please let us know when you request the project. We're trying to re-use plastic tile bags where possible, if Members have returned them with their feedback surveys.

We're also trying to use leftover tiles where possible to avoid waste, so there may be some slight variation in colours from the main pattern. However, we will always make sure we're using the same shapes and the colours are still complementary and in keeping with the design. 🍌

# Your crafting stories

This month, we're showcasing the amazing crafting achievements of **blind veteran Les**



**Les displays his beautiful mosaics**

“He never thought he'd do something like this, so he's been pleasantly surprised”

#### Your crafting stories:

We love seeing the photographs you send in of your creative achievements. We hope that by sharing them, more Members will be encouraged to give it a go – you never know what you might be able to accomplish!

Blind veteran Les from Lancashire has shared the photo on the previous page of his completed mosaics, which he has cleverly displayed on the wall. Les used a very strong double-sided tape that he purchased online, so that the mosaics can be moved around with no damage to walls or units (although it's not suitable for wallpaper).

Les has been a Member since 2021 and really enjoys working on these mosaics. He says that he'd never thought he'd do something like this in his “later years”, so he's been pleasantly surprised by his love of being creative. Now inspired to try designing his own mosaics with spare materials from the NCP, we look forward to hearing how he gets on!



**Tutti frutti mosaic**

**Hints and tips:** Thank you to the anonymous Member who shared in their feedback form a top tip about wooden models. When sorting out the sheets for models using the layout guide, they wrote A, B, C and D in bold pen on the corner of each sheet to make it easier to remember which was which. Thank you for this simple, but effective way to make the process easier.

■ **We'd love to hear from more of you. Please feel free to get in touch via email if you'd like to share your story or ask for advice on pursuing your favourite hobbies alongside the regular NCP kits. You can email us at [ncwt@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:ncwt@blindveterans.org.uk)** 🍌



# Quiz time

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

1. Who directed The Lord of the Rings trilogy?
2. Which English football team plays at Meadow Lane?
3. Fissures, vents, and plugs are all associated with what geological feature?
4. What is the national flower of Japan?
5. Which is the longest river in the world?
6. Norwegian artist Edvard Munch is famous for which painting?
7. What is the name of the café in Coronation Street?
8. In which city is the European Parliament based?
9. What was the first human invention that broke the sound barrier?
10. Which famous group was the first to perform on Top Of The Pops in 1964??

Answers on back cover



The Lord of the Rings film poster



## Birthdays

**William Allardyce** who celebrates his 101st birthday on 27 May 2026.

**Richard Clegg** who celebrates his 101st birthday on 7 May 2026.

**Edna D'arcy** who celebrates her 101st birthday on 12 May 2026.

**Joan Harrison** who celebrates her 103rd birthday on 5 May 2026.

**Henry Hogg** who celebrates his 107th birthday on 17 May 2026.

**Mary Johnston** who celebrates her 102nd birthday on 10 May 2026.

**Jean Lees** who celebrates her 102nd birthday on 24 May 2026.

**Richard Pelzer** who celebrates his 102nd birthday on 20 May 2026.

**Alfred Seller** who celebrates his 100th birthday on 13 May 2026.

**Cyril Surman** who celebrates his 101st birthday on 17 May 2026.

**Dennis Thatcher** who celebrates his 100th birthday on 29 May 2026.

**Mieczyslaw Wodzak** who celebrates his 100th birthday on 15 May 2026.

## Condolences

It is with deep regret that we record the deaths of the following, and we offer our heartfelt condolences.

**Josephine Beatty** who died on 2 March 2026. She was the wife of William Johnston Beatty.

**Margaret Easton** who died on 1 March 2026. She was the wife of Kenneth Easton.

**Gina Hughes** who died on 1 March 2026. She was the wife of Alan Hughes.

**Audrey Ivory** who died on 1 March 2026. She was the wife of Dennis Ivory.

**Joan Moules** who died on 27 March 2026. She was the wife of Leon Moules.

**Susanne Pullman** who died on 23 March 2026. She was the wife of Brian Pullman.

**Mary Spurgin** who died on 1 March 2026. She was the wife of Denis Spurgin.

**Doreen Thornber** who died on 4 April 2026. She was the wife of Roy Thornber.

**Joyce Watts** who died on 1 March 2026. She was the wife of Peter Watts.



# 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

**William Addison** of Peterhead who died on 1 February 2026 aged 94. He served as a Private in the Gordon Highlanders.

**Terence Andrew** of Exmouth who died on 2 April 2026 aged 91. He served as an Operator in The Royal Signals.

**Derek Atkinson** of Grange-over-sands who died on 22 February 2026 aged 88. He served as an A.C.1 in The Royal Air Force.

**Leslie Barnes** of Fareham who died on 17 March 2026 aged 66. He served as a Petty Officer in The Royal Navy.

**Wally Barnes** of Stamford who died on 1 March 2026 aged 80. He served as a Lance Corporal in The Royal Engineers.

**Raymond Bates** of Mountain Ash who died on 17 February 2026 aged 86. He served as a Private in the Welch Regiment.

**Kenneth Battleday** of Swaffham who died on 2 March 2026 aged 93. He served as an Acting Petty Officer in The Royal Navy.

**Keith Beaumont** of Huddersfield who died on 26 March 2026 aged 87. He served as a Private in The Prince of Wales' own Yorkshire Regiment.

**David Birch** of Darlington who died on 22 March 2026 aged 85. He served as a Warrant Officer 1st Class in The Army Ordnance Corps.

**William Blackwell** of Liverpool who died on 1 April 2026 aged 89. He served as a Private in The 4th Queen's Own Hussars.

**Richard Boswell** of Liskeard who died on 6 March 2026 aged 68. He served as a Lance Corporal in The Royal Engineers.

**Edna Bowman-Sutton** of Manchester who died on 1 March 2026 aged 100. She served as a Private in The Auxiliary Territorial Service.

**James Broadbent** of Oldham who died on 23 January 2026 aged 100. He served as an Acting Sergeant in The General Service Corps.

**Victor Brown** of Bexhill-on-sea who died on 1 January 2026 aged 102. He served as a Stoker 1st Class in The Royal Navy.

**Roger Brushneen** of Gloucester who died on 1 March 2026 aged 81. He served as a Flight Lieutenant in The Royal Air Force.

**Cyril Burgess** of Newark who died on 9 March 2026 aged 85. He served in The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

**Donald Carter** of Thornton-Cleveleys who died on 7 March 2026 aged 93. He served as an L.A.C in The Royal Air Force.

**Leon Cawdell** of Llandudno who died on 26 February 2026 aged 89. He served in The Royal Signals.

**Robert Cornwall** of Cromer who died on 28 January 2026 aged 95. He served as a Lance Corporal in The Army.

**Michael Dalton** of Ormskirk who died on 12 March 2026 aged 87. He served as a Lance Corporal in The Royal Engineers.

**Colin Daniels** of Bexhill-on-sea who died on 24 March 2026 aged 90. He served as a Corporal in The Royal Air Force.

**Graham Davies** of Swansea who died on 16 February 2026 aged 94. He served as a Leading Aircraftman in The Royal Air Force.

**Colin Davies** of Scunthorpe who died on 17 January 2026 aged 94. He served as an A.C.2 in The Royal Air Force.

**David Dick** of Preston who died on 24 March 2026 aged 95. He served as a Lance Corporal in The Royal Air Force.

**Richard Drew** of Peacehaven who died on 1 February 2026 aged 78. He served as a Sergeant in The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

**Stanley Embling** of Scunthorpe who died on 20 March 2026 aged 88. He served in The Royal Lincolnshire Regiment.

**Ralph Gardner** of Northampton who died on 24 February 2026 aged 91. He served as a Lieutenant in The Scots Guards.

**John Garner** of Tarporley who died on 8 January 2026 aged 92. He served as a Lance Corporal in The Royal Engineers.

**James Goodman** of Epsom who died on 23 February 2026 aged 94. He served as a Trooper in The Army.

**Top Gurung** of Nuneaton who died on 6 January 2026 aged 74. He served as a Private in The 6 Gurkha Rifles.

**Estelle Hannaford** of Staines-Upon-Thames who died on 9 March 2026 aged 105. She served as a Private in The Army.

**Eric Hansell** of Luton who died on 10 January 2026 aged 89. He served as a Private in The Royal Norfolk Regiment.

**John Harlow** of Totnes who died on 13 January 2026 aged 101. He served as a Telegraphist in The Royal Navy.

**Victor Hart** of Exeter who died on 15 February 2026 aged 99. He served as an Able Seaman in The Merchant Navy.

**Michael Hayter** of Farnham who died on 27 March 2026 aged 93. He served as a Junior Technician in The Royal Air Force.

**David Hewlett** of Taunton who died on 26 March 2026 aged 90. He served as a Sergeant in The Royal Air Force.

**Michael Holmes** of Wokingham who died on 1 March 2026 aged 94. He served as a Corporal in The Royal Engineers.

**Robert Howes** of Margate who died on 1 March 2026 aged 96. He served as an A.C.2 in The Royal Air Force.

**Dennis Hughes-Edwards** of Abergavenny who died on 11 March 2026 aged 92. He served as a Flight Lieutenant in The Bomber Command.

**Kenneth Jenkins** of Bognor Regis who died on 1 February 2026 aged 94. He served as an S.A.C in The Royal Air Force.

**Kenneth Jenkins** of Solihull who died on 22 February 2026 aged 94. He served as a Sapper in The Royal Engineers.

**George Keane** of Evesham who died on 10 March 2026 aged 100. He served as a Sergeant in The Merchant Navy.

**Albert Lacey** of Salisbury who died on 2 March 2026 aged 94. He served as an Acting Corporal in The Army Service Corps.



**Frank Lawrence** of Peacehaven who died on 16 March 2026 aged 96. He served as a Leading Airman in The Royal Air Force.

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**Mark Lemon** of Maidenhead who died on 2 April 2026 aged 93. He served as a Second Lieutenant in The Royal Engineers.

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**Shaun Liddle** of Sunderland who died on 4 January 2026 aged 56. He served as an Able Seaman in The Royal Navy.

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**Gary Lomas** of Clitheroe who died on 5 April 2026 aged 61. He served as a Sapper in The Royal Engineers.

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**Christopher Longmore** of Heywood who died on 1 February 2026 aged 86. He served in The Royal Signals.

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**Derek Ludbrook** of Southampton who died on 22 March 2026 aged 93. He served as a Leading Airman in The Royal Air Force.

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**Rupert Mace** of Newmarket who died on 10 February 2026 aged 96. He served as a Gunner in The General Service Corps.

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**Michael Macey** of Luton who died on 1 February 2026 aged 92. He served as an Able Seaman in The Royal Navy.

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**Malcom Margetts** of Gosport who died on 30 March 2026 aged 85. He served as a Chief Petty Officer in The Royal Navy.

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**Derek Matthews** of Camberley who died on 3 February 2026 aged 97. He served as a Sergeant in The Royal Marines.

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**Harry McGee** of Accrington who died on 15 February 2026 aged 90. He served as an L.A.C in The Royal Air Force.

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**Matthew McGowan** of Girvan who died on 1 March 2026 aged 75. He served as an Able Seaman in The Royal Navy.

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**Michael Merrifield** of Ashbourne who died on 25 February 2026 aged 91. He served as a Craftsman in The Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

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**Patrick Millar** of Guildford who died on 8 March 2026 aged 88. He served as a Lance Corporal in The Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

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**Fredrick Mills** of Horsham who died on 1 April 2026 aged 91. He served as a Senior Aircraftsman in The Royal Air Force.

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**Henry Moore** of Workington who died on 1 March 2026 aged 86. He served as a Private in The Border Regiment.

---

**Dorothy Morton** of Lyme Regis who died on 4 April 2026 aged 98. She served as a Aircraftswoman in The Women's Royal Air Force.

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**Brian Nash** of Cardiff who died on 31 March 2026 aged 92. He served as a Private in The Royal Engineers.

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**Victor Nicholls** of Chichester who died on 7 April 2026 aged 96. He served as a Warrant Officer in The General Service Corps.

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**Derek O'Brien** of Blackpool who died on 1 March 2026 aged 86. He served as a Senior Aircraftsman in The Royal Air Force.

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**James Palmer** of Oldham who died on 6 February 2026 aged 87. He served as an Acting Lance Corporal in The Army Catering Corps.

---

**Kenneth Parkes** of Birmingham who died on 1 February 2026 aged 94. He served in The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

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**Brian Parris** of Waterlooville who died on 31 March 2026 aged 88. He served as a Corporal in The Royal Air Force.

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**Alice Parsons** of Haverfordwest who died on 1 February 2026 aged 99. She served as a Temporary Corporal in The Women's Royal Air Force.

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**Peter Paskin** of Chester who died on 8 February 2026 aged 89. He served as an S.A.C in The Royal Air Force.

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**William Pepperell** of Gloucester who died on 13 February 2026 aged 99. He served as a Corporal in The General Service Corps.

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**Terence Perkins** of Plymouth who died on 10 February 2026 aged 62. He served as a Corporal in The Royal Army Medical Corps.

---

**Raymond Poel** of Liverpool who died on 1 March 2026 aged 98. He served as an A.C.2 in The Royal Air Force.

---

**Arthur Preece** of Ripon who died on 10 March 2026 aged 98. He served as a Sergeant in The Royal Engineers.

---

**Anthony Reardon** of Guilford who died on 19 March 2026 aged 87. He served as a Private in The Royal Artillery.

---

**Dennis Richardson** of Seaford who died on 2 February 2026 aged 92. He served as a Private in The Army.

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**Roy Rippingale** of Halstead who died on 1 February 2026 aged 93. He served as a Leading Airman in The Royal Air Force.

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**Robert Roberts** of St.Helens who died on 1 March 2026 aged 88. He served as a Gunner in The Royal Artillery.

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**Alan Roper** of Chorley who died on 3 March 2026 aged 91. He served in the Lancastrian Brigade.

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**Ishbel Sewell** of Marlborough who died on 1 February 2026 aged 99. She served as a Lieutenant in the Auxiliary Territorial Service.

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**William Skinner** of Hull who died on 8 February 2026 aged 92. He served as a Private in The East Yorkshire Regiment.

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**Robert Smith** of Trowbridge who died on 27 February 2026 aged 85. He served in The Royal Air Force.

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**Martin Sullivan** of Northumberland who died on 5 February 2026 aged 98. He served as an Air Mechanic in The Fleet Air Arm.

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**Bryan Taylor** of Hayling Island who died on 1 March 2026 aged 94. He served as an L.A.C in The Royal Air Force.

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**Robin Thirtle** of Brighton who died on 28 February 2026 aged 88. He served as an S.A.C in The Royal Air Force.

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**Terence Towler** of Radstock who died on 11 February 2026 aged 90. He served as a Senior Aircraftsman in The Royal Air Force.

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**Harry Wade** of Newark who died on 22 March 2026 aged 98. He served as a Gunner in The Royal Artillery.

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**Robert Walker** of Hailsham who died on 20 March 2026 aged 102. He served as an Acting Captain in The Royal Marines.

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**Alan Walker** of Durham who died on 24 March 2026 aged 87. He served as a Private in The Royal Army Service Corps.

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**John Watkins** of Tring who died on 28 March 2026 aged 94. He served as a Private in The Royal Army Service Corps.

---

**Bernard Williams** of Oxford who died on 1 March 2026 aged 101. He served as a Gunner in The Royal Artillery.

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**Sydney Wilson** of Fleetwood who died on 1 March 2026 aged 97. He served as a Signaller in The General Service Corps.

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**Jamie Woodfine** of Maidstone who died on 26 February 2026 aged 47. He served in The Royal Engineers.

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**John Wright** of Ivybridge who died on 29 March 2026 aged 89. He served as a Lance Corporal in The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

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**Eric Young** of Perth who died on 1 March 2026 aged 91. He served as a Corporal in The Royal Air Force.

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**Did you know, we can set up online tribute pages for the loved ones of our staff, Members and supporters? Find out more about setting up a tribute page at [blindveteransuk.muchloved.org](http://blindveteransuk.muchloved.org)**