



Listen  
here

# A Very Merry Christmas from Blind Veterans UK

As the year comes to an end, we want to thank each and every one of you who make our community so special, our blind veterans, families, volunteers, staff and supporters.

Your kindness and courage inspire us every day.

Wishing you a joyful holiday season  
and a bright new year.



Rebuilding  
lives after  
sight loss

**Quiz answers – from page 35** 1. Join in any reindeer games 2. Switzerland 3. A lump of coal 4. Germany 5. Bradford 6. Dragon 7. Four – Jacob Marley and the ghosts of Christmas past, present and future 8. Donner 9. Turkey 10. Eight 11. Hogmanay 12. Twel th Night 13. St Stephen 14. Diwali 15. Canada 16. 3pm 17. Womens Rugby World Cup 18. Pope Leo XIV 19. Cli Richard 20. Jingle bells 21. A Coin 22. Kilted Sausages 23. Poland



Listen  
here

# Review



The journal of  
Blind Veterans UK  
**December 2025**

## A Day of Remembrance

Your commemorations  
around the country

### Inside:

**Remembrance Round Up**  
**Christmas Recipes**  
**Keeping warm this winter**



Rebuilding  
lives after  
sight loss

# Spread joy this Christmas!

Our new Christmas cards are now available to order.



Listen  
here



Get ready to spread festive cheer with our exclusive Christmas card designed by Member Bryan Naylor, featuring a stunning watercolor Santa and a snow-kissed tree. Perfect for sharing joy, love, and warm wishes this holiday season.

To purchase or explore more, visit our online shop at [blindveterans.org.uk/shop](https://blindveterans.org.uk/shop). Or contact Supporter Services on 0300 111 22 33.



## Contents

- 02** Our new Christmas cards
- 04** A message from your Chairman
- 06** Our contact details
- 07** A message from Padre George
- 08** News
- 10** In your community
- 11** A Christmas message
- 14** Your funny stories
- 16** Remembrance
- 19** A last thank you
- 24** Christmas recipe
- 25** Remembering Terry Bullingham
- 28** Digital Inclusion
- 30** Resources – Keeping warm this winter
- 32** Member Voice
- 34** National Creative Programme
- 36** Quiz time
- 38** Family news
- 39** In memory

### On the cover

Group shot of Our contingent at the Cenotaph waiting to march on horseguards parade.



# The Nation remembers

A message from your Chair, **Barry Coupe**

As our nation marked 80 years since the end of the Second World War, last month's Remembrance commemorations carried special poignancy. Across the country, our Members, volunteers, and staff came together to honour those who gave their lives in service, ensuring that their sacrifice continues to inspire generations to come.

The weekend began at Hampstead Cemetery, where a small service was held at the grave of our founder, Sir Arthur Pearson. Our Chief Executive, Adrian, lay a cross alongside Steve Davies - the "military grave restorer" - who earlier this year lovingly cleaned Sir Arthur's grave as well as 229 of our veterans' graves in Brighton. Our charity was proudly represented by Members Brian Eldridge, who carried the standard, and Robert Loseby, who laid a wreath on behalf of Blind Veterans UK.

That afternoon, 12 of our Members attended the magnificent Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall, a moving celebration of courage and resilience. Later, those preparing to march the following day gathered for dinner at the Victory Services Club for a chance to share stories, reconnect with old friends, and



**Barry Coupe**

welcome new ones into our wonderful community.

On Sunday morning, from 8:30am, our contingent of around eighty Members and guides assembled on Horse Guards Parade, ready to take part in the televised march past the Cenotaph. This year's wreath was carried by blind veteran Kelly Ganfield. Kelly made history as the first blind veteran ever to carry the wreath accompanied by a guide dog. Both Kelly and Archie did us proud.

Marching alongside Kelly was Michael Woods, one of only 20 surviving Second World War veterans present at this year's Cenotaph. They were joined by John Hardy, recently awarded the British Empire Medal, who proudly wore it for the first time that day.

I was delighted to see our Members taking part in Remembrance commemorations across the country. At our Rustington Centre, some of you gathered for a moving service led by our Padre. Second World War veterans Nancy Bowstead and John Harlow laid wreaths, and all present were invited to write messages of remembrance on small crosses placed in the Garden of Remembrance.

This year's service at Rustington was also significant as it marked the final

appearance of long-serving standard bearer Alan Walker. His years of dedication have embodied the pride and symbolism of the standard, and we thank him deeply for his service and commitment.

Meanwhile, in Manchester, we held our first Remembrance service at the Victory Over Blindness statue outside Piccadilly Station. The event, attended by 48 of you and your guests, paid tribute to all who served. It was followed by a dinner at the Hilton Hotel, bringing together over 40 Members and guests ahead of the city's Service of Remembrance the next day.

Across the UK, our Members ensured that Blind Veterans UK was represented in communities large and small. In total, more than 50 wreaths were laid - from England to Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales - each one a symbol of respect and pride.

Eighty years on from the end of a war that shaped our world, we continue to remember not only those who fell, but also those who returned, rebuilt and inspired.

To every blind veteran who represented our charity throughout the Remembrance period, my sincere thanks. 🇬🇧



# 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**.

**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**.

**Donations:** To make a donation, simply call **0300 111 22 33** or visit **[blindveterans.org.uk/donate](http://blindveterans.org.uk/donate)**.

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.**

AGENTURFOTOGRAFIN / ADOBE STOCK



# Unto us a child is born

A Christmas message from **Padre George**

We all love to hear the news of a birth, especially when the circumstances are right; happy home, loving parents, good nurseries and schools in the area.

Sometimes the circumstances are not idyllic, but the baby comes when they're ready. Maybe a baby is born in the middle of a war, a famine, a flood, an earthquake. Maybe a child baby is born after a tyrannical government has made a law that families are only allowed two children and this is number three, what happens then. Maybe mother and child do not bond and the child is brought up by the wider family or the community orphanage.

However, even in the worst of circumstances most babies bring joy and happiness, together with interrupted sleep patterns for parents and guardians.

When Jesus was born “in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of Herod the King”, His parents were only engaged to be married, there were whisperings and talk that the baby wasn't Josephs, (which He wasn't). Neither was Jesus

born in a maternity home or even a normal house, but in a stable. There was no crib of the latest fashion, but a manger, where oxen feed on hay. The stable was dark, noisy, and smelled of animals.

The first Christmas was such a scene, the Eternal Word was made human in the worst of circumstances. However he was Blessed with a loving Virgin Mother, and St Joseph her spouse looked after and cared for God's only begotten Son, who came into the world for one purpose to die 33 years later for the sin of the world.

Christmas means many things to each of us. But what I have just described is the only meaning of Christmas, whether we like it or not. Anything else is Yuletide, Winterville, or worse Xmas with Christ taken out in case it may offend.

Amidst all the merry making remember the real Christmas, when we do we find our opinions begin to change, we look at world events in a different way, and best of all we begin to examine our own lives and how we are living them.

# News

## CEO Adrian Bell on proposed changes to the charity

As a charity, it is crucial for us to pin down our charity objects to get a clear understanding of what Blind Veterans UK is here to do and, crucially, what it is not here to do. I have also written and spoken at our conference earlier this year about the potential for us to create a new Blind Veterans UK membership organisation.

For those who did not attend our regional conferences but would still like to get an idea of what was discussed I have recorded a short presentation going into the changes in charity objects and potential membership organisation.

You can view the presentation at [blindveterans.org.uk/presentation](https://blindveterans.org.uk/presentation). An audio recording of the same presentation can also be listened to by calling the freephone number **0800 160 1178**.

I am keen to hear feedback from any Members who wish to share it. A feedback form can also be found at [blindveterans.org.uk/presentation](https://blindveterans.org.uk/presentation)

If you require any assistance on submitting your feedback form or would prefer to feedback in another way you can call **01273 391447** or contact your community team.

Please remember that you can always contact me if you would like to discuss this or any other matter as well.

Yours sincerely  
**Adrian Bell**

---

## William “Bill” Weisblatt 1929 – 2025

We are sad to report that the former Secretary to the Council of St Dunstan’s, Bill Weisblatt, passed away on 20 September 2025. Many older St Dunstaners will fondly remember Bill who initially joined our staff in 1973 as Legal Officer. He went on to serve as Secretary to the Council, which was effectively the charity’s



**Bill Weisblatt (left)**

CEO, until his retirement in 1994. He then served as a Governor of St Dunstan’s.

As well as his service as Secretary, he played an active role in supporting many St Dunstan’s activities including guiding on walking weeks and assisting at the Handless Deaf Blind Reunions every year. He kept up to date with the developments at Blind Veterans UK and continued to receive Review until he passed away.

All at Blind Veterans UK would like to send our condolences to his family.

---

## Thomas Franks People Awards Winners

A huge well done to two members of the Thomas Franks catering team at Rustington who have recently been recognised at their annual awards event.

Chloe Cooper was awarded the Rising Star award. Chloe has worked at the centre since it first opened and was recognised for her commitment to finishing every task to the best standard that she can and for the care shown to the Members.

She says: “I am so happy to have been noticed by the staff at the charity.



**Chloe and Emily**

I enjoy working with the Members, building good relationships with them and catering for their needs. Working at the centre has given me an opportunity to learn a lot.”

Emily Woollard was presented with the Apprentice of the Year award for her growth in confidence and the progress she has made.

She says: “Working for the charity is very unique; it’s the only 24/7 operation that Thomas Franks is based in. I really enjoy interacting with the Members and hearing their stories.”

Our Members and staff often comment on the wonderful catering team at our Rustington Centre, delicious food and friendly service around the clock. A big congratulations to Chloe, Emily, and the entire team down at Rustington. 🍕

# In your community

Just some of the social gatherings that have taken place across the country, bringing together local Members



**Wirral Member Olly celebrates**

## In The Wirral

At our monthly Wirral Lunch Group we had the absolute pleasure of being able to celebrate Olly's 103rd Birthday.

Olly served in the WAAF, being posted in Churchill's cabinet office, as you can imagine, like so many of our Members, she has many lovely stories including being outside Buckingham Palace on VE Day. Olly comes to every lunch group with a smile and an enthusiasm for life that is truly inspiring! Happy Birthday to Olly!

## In York

Members from Community 11 visited the Cold War Bunker in York. The Bunker was one of a network, all across the UK, where the Royal Observer Corps were meant to plot the detonation points of a nuclear attack in order to inform and support the UK's response to such a thing happening.



**Community 11 Members visit the York Cold War Bunker**

Members were shown a film outlining the Cold War, the likely effects of a nuclear attack and what might come next. They were taken to the control room (which will be familiar to those of you who have seen films such as "The Battle of Britain"), as well as the sleeping quarters and the room where all the necessities of life were controlled from air purification, heat and water.

Once in the Bunker, personnel were expected to stay there for a month. So, while there was enough water for drinking and cooking, there wasn't enough for bathing and washing. Imagine that.

It was a really informative and interesting afternoon and a look behind the curtain of civil defence which is rarely seen. Members had a wonderful time!

## In Bristol

Blind Veterans UK has managed to secure a partnership with Surfing England, The Wave Project and the Paralympic GB coaches to teach some of our Members how to surf. Three Members from ages 40 to 70 took on the challenge. Seeing our members go from feeling anxious to feeling alive riding the waves is the best experience. Looking forward to more work with Surfing England next year.



**Bristol surfers take to the waves**

## In Bath

Members attended a tour at Bath Abbey. Their guide Paolo had never been a guide for anyone with a visual impairment before. The group made suggestions on how the history of the Abbey could be described with as much visual description as possible and to have tactile opportunities. Paolo did not disappoint! Members had a wonderful time learning about this spectacular place and being allowed to feel the frescos, sculptures and architecture. The group ended the tour with a hot drink in a local cafe reflecting on their experience.



**Bath Abbey**

## In Yeovil

A group of blind veterans from across communities spent the day at Haynes Motor Museum. It was a day of nostalgia for the Members, sharing memories prompted by vintage vehicles throughout the day. Some Members even found replicas of their very own first car in the museum. The volunteers at the museum were brilliant, bringing the history of motoring to life. They gave our Members special gloves to wear so that they could actually touch the vehicles, making the session as sensory as possible.

### Member Reg Morley described the day:

“This was a wonderful day out for us. I truly enjoyed looking back at the old cars we had when we were younger. The information given by the volunteers was spot-on and they knew their stuff. We even got to see Lewis Hamilton’s original Formula one Renault racing car that he won his first race in 2003. What a great day!”

## In Northern Ireland

Members along with veterans and carers participated in a research study exploring the subject of peace.



### Yeovil Members visit the Hayes Motor Museum

We have no photographs to share to protect individual identities however the workshop was audio recorded and will become part of an oral history archive of **Untold Museum: The Collections & Archive**. Blind Veterans UK Member voices and expertise will inform the co-production of the new museum, ‘UNTOLD: The Story of the Irish in the British Army’.

The project seeks to challenge popular public perceptions of the military by exploring their role in defending peace. With additional funding it is hoped the interviews can be transcribed, edited and

voiced by AI ‘actors’ to become part of an immersive sound sculpture. Like the installation at Aldershot Military Museum. The workshop was facilitated by Dr Joseph Young, Principal Investigator and sound artist in collaboration with Dr Hannah West, a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre of Excellence for Equity in the Uniformed Public Services. 🇮🇪

**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.**

# Seeing the funny side and sharing stories

Member **Steve Evans** is calling on his fellow blind veterans to share any humorous stories they have in relation to their service or sight loss

I think our modern times are marred by too much bad news and sensationalism. I am a drink half full sort of chap and, as a result, enjoy a good laugh and don't have an issue with people laughing with me or even at me, provided it bears no malice.

Those of us who live in this general mood should not be the exception but should try to help others to find a happier place to 'be'.

Despite the obvious challenges sight loss brings many Members of Blind Veterans UK maintain sound mental health. There are those in the vision impaired group who can see a different side of disability and can point a funny bone at some of the challenges we face.

I would therefore like to start gathering these stories together to potentially look at producing a humorous book in the future.

It would be great to share, not only with VI people, but everyone who can giggle with us.

Some people may wish to remain anonymous, which is absolutely fine, and I am happy to collate the content and arrange public dissemination and/or even publication.

We have such an amazing range of subjects, notwithstanding our shared vision impairments. HM services laugh through adversity, point fun at the world and crack on. Many of our Service people have gone on to different careers and situations with more tales to tell. Has anyone ever been sent to the Stores or QM for a left-handed screwdriver and a pot of tartan paint?

Let's have your stories, anecdotes, jokes and observations and let's share them with a wider group to put a little cheer out into the world.



**Time to enjoy a good laugh!**

## In a bid to kick us off...

I have a blind friend who went into Tesco with his guide dog, Beefy the German Shepherd, as he entered the store he lifted up his dog and started to swing it around his head on the lead. A security guard rushed over and screamed, "What the hell do you think you're doing? "Just having a look around!" replied my friend.

This next one is an absolutely true story that happened to me. Playing golf in Spain in very high temperatures on plastic seated golf buggies, a larger man may be prone to a little

perspiration and chaffing in the nether regions.

Picture the scene, engine running in the minibus, fully laden with keen golfers and running slightly late, I realised I hadn't applied a little dab of Sudocrem to the key areas. I ran back to my room for a quick application. Into room, toiletry bag found, rushed to find tube of Sudocrem, liberal quantity of cream rubbed in to upper, inner thighs and bottom. I rushed back to the minibus with fellow golfers shouting insults about tardy seamen, when it then happened... I thought someone had put a blow torch to my undercarriage – positively steaming. Whilst boiling over I made my apologies and rushed back to my room, stripped off my lower clothing and turned on a cold shower to put out the fire.

Whilst spraying all areas I picked up the tube of Sudocrem and realised it was the same size and colour as my Colgate SR toothpaste! Easy mistake to make in a rush with a visual impairment but one I would never repeat! True story, honest.

■ **Anyone who would like to share their funny stories, observations and jokes can do so by emailing them to [revieweditor@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:revieweditor@blindveterans.org.uk)**



**Clockwise from left: Billy at Fauldhouse War Memorial, Tony Harbour interview for ITV at Brighton Station, Standard bearer Alan and bugler Nick**

# The nation remembers

With 80 years having passed since the end of the Second World War, this year's Remembrance commemorations were particularly poignant

**Clockwise from left: Service at Brighton Station, Resident Nancy at Rustington service, Sir Arthur Pearson Grave**

Members gathered and laid wreaths in London, Rustington, and Manchester as well as at many other local events around the country, remembering all those who laid down their lives for our country.

The weekend began with a small service at the grave of our founder Sir Arthur Pearson on Saturday morning at Hampstead Cemetery. Members Brian Eldridge and Robert Loseby

represented the charity with Brian carrying the standard once again and Robert laying the wreath. Steve Davies, also known as the military grave restorer, who earlier this year cleaned not only Sir Arthur's grave but also our 229 graves in Brighton, laid a cross, as did our Chief Executive, Adrian Bell.

Later that afternoon 12 Members attended the spectacular Festival →

of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall, and in the evening those who were to march at the Cenotaph the following day got together for an informal dinner at the Victory Services Club, where friends, old and new, met and caught up.

From 8:30am on Sunday our contingent of around 80 Members and guides started to congregate on Horse Guards Parade in preparation for the televised march past the Cenotaph.

Our wreath was carried by Kelly Ganfield this year, who made history as the first ever blind veteran to carry a wreath at the Cenotaph alongside her guide dog, Archie. She said: “Leading the contingent and laying the wreath on behalf of Blind Veterans UK is a huge privilege and to have my guide dog Archie beside me, enabling me to represent the fantastic work of not only Blind Veterans UK but also Guide Dogs, is really special.”

Kelly joined the Army in 1998 and

served until 2005 with the Adjutant Generals Corp. She suffered a stroke at the age of 23 as a result of an autoimmune condition that causes blood clots. The stroke changed her life overnight. She says: “I found myself suddenly becoming a blind veteran; at the age of 23 I lost my sight and my career. I was absolutely devastated and the future was so uncertain.”

Fortunately, Kelly found out about our charity and started receiving support in 2006. She said: “Blind Veterans UK

saved my life; I owe them a great deal. They took me in after I lost my sight and have taken care of me ever since.”

Alongside Kelly in the front row was Michael Woods, one of only 20 Second World War veterans who marched at the Cenotaph this year. Reflecting on his second year marching, he said: “It was great. Such a marvellous experience. I’m honoured to have taken part with Blind Veterans UK and I’m very proud that I was one of the few Second World War



**Anthony Coughlan and Jessica Foster**



**Members Carl Adamson and John Nicolat At Llandudno Remembrance Service**



**Member Horace laying a wreath in Southampton**



**Torquay contingent**

veterans, there aren't a lot of us left."

Kelly and Michael were joined by John Hardy, who earlier this year received the British Empire Medal for his service of his local community. Before the march he said: "Marching at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday is always special, but this year will be extra special as I proudly wear my BEM for the first time."

### Following the service in London many Members went on to

### attend moving ceremonies in their local area.

At our **Rustington Centre** veterans, their families, and charity staff came together for a service led by our padre. During the service Second World War Members Nancy Bowstead and John Harlow were among those to lay a wreath and all those present were invited to write a message of Remembrance on crosses that were placed in the Garden of Remembrance.



**Members meet to remember at Manchester Piccadilly Station**

John Harlow was a submariner during the Second World War. He said: "The submarine service lost a lot of men. At Remembrance, I think of a particularly good friend who I joined the submarine service with. He was on a sister ship to mine; they were depth charged and sunk in the Indian Ocean. I think of this chap every Remembrance and get very emotional."

The service also marked the last time standard bearer Alan Walker would perform the role. Glynis Gillam, who works with our working age Members, said: "Alan has been one of our very special community of Blind Veterans UK standard bearers for many years now. He's always been diligently dedicated to his role and has taken immense pride in the honour of carrying the standard."

"Historically, and now, the standards are hugely important within the military. They weren't only signs for them to follow into battle but were sacred symbols carrying a lot of meaning for those who carry and follow them. Alan has given tirelessly to his role but can now step down with pride and pass the mantle on to the next blind veteran. He has served us all incredibly well. Huge thank you to our amazing Mr Alan Walker."

We were also represented by three

Members at the parade in Rustington town centre where blind veteran Jim Dunn laid a wreath. At Brighton railway station a small service took place on Armistice Day where Members Tony Harbour and Alan Walker laid wreaths.

Meanwhile, over in **Manchester**, a Remembrance service was held for the first time at our Victory over Blindness statue outside Manchester Piccadilly Station on Saturday, with 48 Members and guests attending. The service commemorated the life of Sir Arthur Pearson as well as all those who lost their lives in the service of our nation.

With prayers, readings, poems and a wreath laid by Member Ken Winstanley, the event was a big success and a similar one is already being planned for next year. Later that evening, we hosted an informal dinner at the Hilton Hotel, which brought 42 Members and guests together, with most of those going on to attend the Service of Remembrance held at St Peter's Square the next day.

**We're proud to say that our blind veterans took part in events across the whole country. Over 50 wreaths were laid on behalf of the charity across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.** 🇬🇧

# Tina remembers: A lasting thank you

A granddaughters wish to continue her grandfathers legacy

Tina Drew has pledged a gift in her Will to remember her grandfather, Claude Lightfoot. A gunner in the British Army during the Second World War, Claude left behind his wife Adelaide and one year old daughter in Wakefield to serve his country. When he returned home in 1945, the family hoped life would return to normal. But war leaves its mark.

Claude's vision began to fail. The vibration from the guns had caused split retinas, resulting in only having peripheral vision left. Work became difficult. The future uncertain. Then it was suggested that Claude seek help from St Dunstan's, now Blind Veterans UK.

After tests confirmed his condition, Claude was welcomed into the charity's care in 1948. He was provided with accommodation, support, and even chickens to help

create income for the family! Even providing courses and many happy holidays at our centre in Brighton over 20 years. In 1959, he got to take part in a chess weekend, having learnt this game after his sight loss. It was more than practical help—it was the support needed to regain his independence.

As Claude's health declined further with rheumatoid arthritis, the family moved south in search of warmer weather. They settled in Woodley, Berkshire, where Claude passed away in 1975 at the age of 64. But the support didn't end with him. Blind Veterans UK continued to care for Adelaide, ensuring the family had support for the rest of her life.

Tina was only young when her grandad passed, but she has fond memories of his broad Yorkshire accent- the family had an African Grey parrot, called Jackie, who mimicked

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUMS / WIKIPEDIA



**Howitzer of 51st Heavy Regiment, Royal Artillery, France, 1944**

Claude's accent. She even remembers how he would prod her with his walking stick when joking with her!

Tina's mum recalled her father fondly, she even wrote a poem about her walks with him, which was published in a magazine. All about walking across the fields to the stream to catch tiddlers. In an article for Review in 1994, she wrote about the trips every Saturday to Brighton as a child, with seaside visits rare before this time it felt incredibly special. A walk along the pier, with her dad and the friends he made at Blind Veterans UK was always enjoyable.

Growing up surrounded by stories of kindness and care, how Blind Veterans

UK stood by her family through hardship, Tina has chosen to honour that support in a deeply personal way.

After her mother's passing, Tina reflected on the lifelong support Blind Veterans UK gave her family—from helping her grandfather rebuild after sight loss, to ensuring her grandmother had support for life. That care shaped her family's story.

Tina feels "it is difficult to find the words to express how I feel about Blind Veterans UK. I don't know what my family would have done without the vital support given."

Now Tina has pledged a gift in her Will, so future ex-servicemen and women, and their families can receive the same compassion, dignity, and hope. Tina's gift is a powerful act of gratitude.

"This is my way of giving back," Tina says. "Because of everything they did for my family, it feels right that another visually impaired person and their family can benefit."

■ **Leaving a gift in your Will is a meaningful way to say thank you and remember those you love. To find out more, call Alice on 020 7616 7923, email [giftsinwills@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:giftsinwills@blindveterans.org.uk)**



# Christmas made easy

Sight loss friendly recipes to make Christmas dinner run smoothly

If this blind veteran can do it, so can you! For a glorious and relaxed traditional Christmas lunch, here are some incredibly straightforward recipes and the cooking countdown that will make those festive celebrations a breeze. There are also links to more recipes that stretch your Christmas turkey to over 40 meals. And it works with a chicken too. **Here is a sneak peek: Penny's easy Christmas baked fruit salad**

## Baked fruit salad

- 1 pineapple, cored, flesh chopped and skin scraped clean.
- 2 firm pears cored and chopped.
- 2 eating apples cored and chopped.
- 2 bananas skinned and chopped.
- Large tin or bottle of apricots, peaches or similar.
- 2 oranges, zest and juice.
- 1 handful dried figs, stalks removed and chopped.
- 1 handful dried dates, chopped.
- 1 handful crystallised ginger, chopped.
- 1 handful dried apricots, chopped.
- 1 handful raisins.
- 2 star anise.
- 1 stick cinnamon.

- Fruit juice (apple, orange etc) to cover.

Place all the fruit and spices and juice in a slow cooker on Low and cook for 6 hours.

Store in lidded containers in fridge.

Reheat in the oven or microwave to serve or eat cold.

- **For more easy sight loss friendly Christmas recipes and a step by step guide to your Christmas dinner timings, go to [www.pennymelvillebrown.com/christmas-made-easy/](http://www.pennymelvillebrown.com/christmas-made-easy/)**



BAYAM / ADOBE STOCK



SUBBOTINA ANNA / ADOBE STOCK



# Christmas Message Wall

Read your well wishes from friends all over the country

This Christmas, we are bringing our dispersed community closer together through a very special online Christmas Message Wall. It is a place where supporters, friends and families from all over the country are sharing heartfelt messages for our Blind Veterans. These messages are filled with gratitude, kindness and festive cheer, reminding every veteran that you are part of a proud and supportive community.

We invite you to take a moment to visit the Christmas message wall and read the words of encouragement and appreciation that have been left there especially for you. Each message

is a reminder that your service and sacrifice has not been forgotten. It is a wonderful way to feel connected and to experience the warmth of the wider Blind Veterans UK community, no matter who you are.

You are also welcome to add your own message to the wall. You can write just a few words to a fellow veteran specifically, or to other blind veterans more generally. Your words could lift someone's spirits and remind them that they are not alone this Christmas.

- **Find the Christmas message wall here – <https://message.blindveterans.org.uk>**

# Terry Bullingham

## 1944 - 2025

It is with deep sadness that we share the news that, **Terry Bullingham**, the first St Dunstaner blinded in The Falklands War, died at home in Peacehaven on 10 November 2025

Terry was born in Cheltenham in 1944 and, drawn to the sea and a life of service, he joined the Royal Navy in 1960, embarking on a career that would span over two decades. Rising through the ranks to become a Chief Petty Officer, Terry was known for his dedication, discipline, and camaraderie with his fellow sailors.

In 1982, Terry was serving aboard HMS Antrim during the Falklands War. On 21 May, HMS Antrim was providing air defence for the troopship Canberra when it came under attack from Argentinian Mirage jets. In a devastating strafing run, Terry was struck by a cannon shell. The impact left him severely injured and completely blind.

The last thing Terry ever saw were the attacking jets, which he later described as “looking like an air show—fast, low, and surreal”. After the attack, he was treated aboard the hospital ship SS

Uganda, where medical staff fought to save his sight but were ultimately unsuccessful. Terry completely lost his sight at the age of 37 and with that became the first blind veteran supported by the charity from the Falklands War.

Returning to the UK, Terry faced the daunting challenge of rebuilding his life. He was referred to us quickly and began his journey of rehabilitation - learning to read and write Braille, use a long cane, and type.

Inspired by the blind veterans of the First and Second World Wars he met during his recovery, Terry adopted a mindset of resilience. At the time he said: “If they can crack it, I’m certainly

“Returning to the UK, Terry faced the daunting challenge of rebuilding his life”



**Terry Bullingham whilst serving in the Royal Navy**

going to”. Their strength and refusal to indulge in self-pity motivated him to push forward, achieving more each day.

Terry didn’t stop at recovery. He went on to have a fulfilling career, working as a museum information officer, a social worker, and a lecturer. He married Maria in 1992, and they enjoyed 39 years of happiness together.

Terry also became a speaker for Blind Veterans UK, ably assisted by Maria, he would share his story to inspire others, both sighted and blind, and raise awareness of our work. He said that he and Maria were “a great team” on the

speakers’ circuit.

In 2022, 40 years after The Falklands and he lost his sight, he led the Blind Veterans UK contingent at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday.

All those who knew Terry would agree that his life stands as a testament to courage and adaptability. Through adversity, he found purpose, and his example, as well as his kindness, will be remembered by all at Blind Veterans UK for many years to come.

On behalf of the charity, we would like to give our most sincere condolences to Maria and his family and friends. 🌹

# How technology can transform Christmas

## How we use Smartphones and Tablet Technology during Christmas

Christmas is a season of joy, connection, and celebration – but it can also bring stress, especially when juggling shopping, travel, and family coordination. Fortunately, smartphones and tablets have become powerful tools that can transform the festive experience, making it more organized, interactive, and enjoyable.

### 1. Simplifying Gift Shopping

Gone are the days of crowded shops and last-minute panic buying. Mobile apps allow you to browse, compare prices, and order gifts from the comfort of your home. Features like wish lists and price alerts ensure you stay within budget while finding the perfect present. Many retailers also offer same-day delivery and click-and-collect options, reducing stress and saving time.

### 2. Staying Connected with Loved Ones

For families and friends separated by distance or inaccessibility, video

calling apps such as Zoom, FaceTime, and WhatsApp bridge the gap. Tablets with larger screens make virtual gatherings feel more immersive, allowing grandparents to watch children open gifts in real time. Group chats and shared photo albums keep everyone involved, even if they can't be physically present.



JACOB LUND / ADOBE STOCK

**Stay connected with love ones**

### 3. Organizing Festive Plans

Smartphones double as personal assistants during the holidays. Calendar apps help schedule events, school plays, and family dinners, while shared planners ensure everyone knows what's happening. Supermarket apps streamline food shopping, and recipe platforms provide step-by-step guides for festive meals. Voice assistants like Siri or Google Assistant can even set reminders or play Christmas music hands-free.

### 4. Enhancing Entertainment

Streaming services on tablets bring endless holiday movies and music playlists to your fingertips. Interactive games and augmented reality apps add fun for kids, turning decorating or gift unwrapping into engaging experiences. For those who love reading, e-books and audiobooks make it easy to enjoy Christmas classics without carrying heavy volumes.

### 5. Supporting Sustainability

Digital cards and e-gift vouchers reduce paper waste, while apps that track energy usage help households manage festive lighting responsibly. Many platforms also promote local businesses, encouraging eco-friendly shopping choices.

### 6. Creating Memories

Smartphone cameras capture every



VITALII / ADOBE STOCK

**Smartphone cameras capture magic moments**

magical moment, from decorating the tree to family dinners. Cloud storage ensures these memories are safe and shareable. Editing apps allow you to create personalized photo albums or festive videos to send to loved ones.

Smartphones and tablets are more than gadgets—they're enablers of convenience, connection, and creativity during Christmas. By embracing these technologies, families can reduce stress, stay closer, and make the holiday season truly memorable. They don't replace face-to-face connection—in fact, by reducing the stress and energy required for planning, shopping, and organizing, they free up more time for what really matters: spending meaningful, quality time together. 📸

# Tips for staying well in winter

Older people's charity, Independent Age, shares simple tips for helping you stay well

## Manage your costs

As the cost of living continues to change, these are some simple ways to manage your costs:

- The oven and electric hob use the most energy.
- A slow cooker uses the least energy to cook a warm meal, so think about using it more than the hob.
- Don't be put off using your kettle to make warm drinks, just avoid overfilling it.
- A lightbulb uses the least energy, and costs less than a penny an hour to run.

## Keep yourself warm

- **Check the thermostat.** Being cold isn't just uncomfortable – it can also be very bad for your health. Heat your home to at least 18°C (64°F) during the day and night. Turn up your thermostat if you feel cold.
- **Check your boiler.** Get your boiler serviced every year. It's best to do

this ahead of winter, to make sure it doesn't break down when you need it most.

- **Keep warm at night.** A hot water bottle or electric blanket can warm up your bed. Never use both together, as this can be dangerous. If you are using an electric blanket, check whether you can keep your blanket on all night or should switch it off before you get into bed.

## Be careful in your home

Make sure your home is safe and free of tripping hazards:

- Use a non-slip bathmat.
- Mop up spills immediately.
- Have a night-light in the bedroom or bedside light or torch by your bed in case you need to get up in the night.
- Remove trailing leads from plugs.
- Keep stairs clear from clutter and well lit.
- Don't overload electrical sockets.

## Be careful outside

- If you must go out when it's icy, wear shoes with good grip and a warm lining, and put on thick socks. Keep grit and/or salt to put on your path. Some councils provide it for free in on-street grit boxes.
- It's a good idea to carry a mobile phone with you, if you can, so you can call for help if you need to. Make sure it's fully charged before you go outside.

## Avoid scams

Everyone is vulnerable to scams, but there are a few things you can do to keep yourself safe:

- Be aware of where any benefits or financial help is coming from. A local authority would never contact you to get your bank details.
- Be wary of all cold-callers and 'too good to be true' deals. If you're unsure about whether something is a scam, call the organisation directly.
- Scammers will try to pressure you into making snap decisions. Remember, any legitimate organisation won't put time pressures on you.

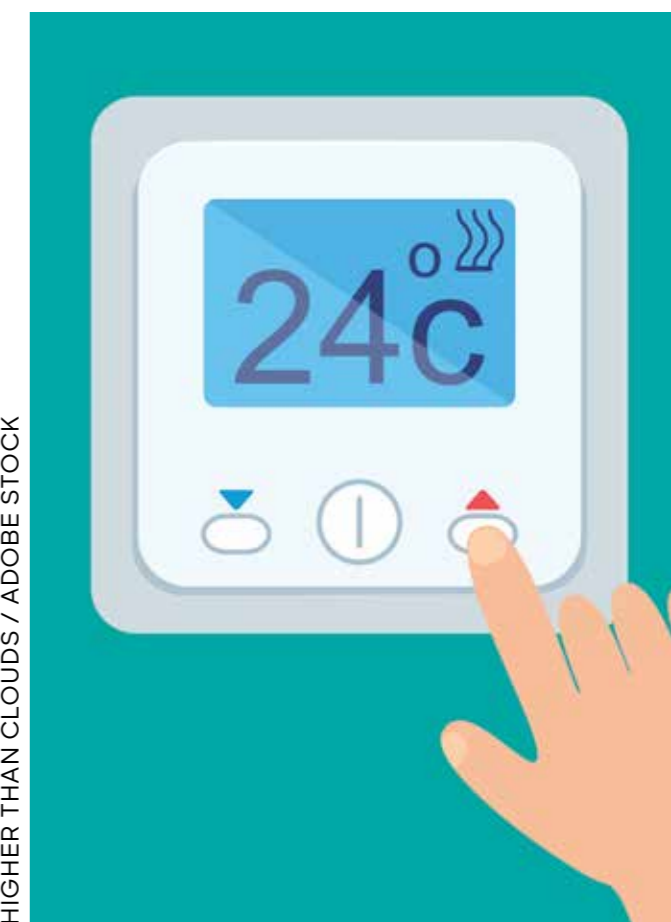
## Look after your mental health

- As well as exercising and eating well, staying connected with others can help to improve your mental health. Stay in touch with friends,

family, neighbours, clubs and your community by phone or meeting up. If you're able to volunteer, giving back to our communities is a great way to feel connected.

- If you feel yourself being anxious or worrying a lot, try to focus on things in your control. Limit how much news you watch or listen to. Take time to chat about how you're feeling with people you trust.

If you'd like to find out about Blind Veterans UK get-togethers in your local area, please reach out to your community team. 🇬🇧



**Check your thermostat... stay warm**

# Member voice

We are delighted with the successes of our recent military dinners at **HMS Drake** and **RAF Honington**

On 10 October Members gathered at HMS Drake in the Warrant and Senior Rates Mess. They enjoyed a 3-course meal and presented winners of Founders Awards with their certificates. The Lord Mayor for Plymouth and High Sherriff for Devon were in attendance including representation from HMS Drakes Senior Command and the Base Warrant Officer. Members had a wonderful time catching up, celebrating their peers and meeting friends new and old.

On 31 October, Members attended RAF Honington for a military dinner within the Officers Mess. The event started with a guided tour of the Heritage Centre within the Station which members thoroughly enjoyed followed by a 3 course meal and presentation of founders awards to deserving Members and volunteers. The Deputy Station Commander, Station Warrant Officer and Wing Commander - Samuel Hanson from the RAF Police attended.

If you would like to attend a military dinner, you're in luck! You can now register your interest for a Blind Veterans UK military dinner at RMA Sandhurst, event details as follows:

**Date: 13 February 2026**

**Time: 12.30pm to 4.30pm**

**Registration closes: 2 January 2026**



**2025 Sandhurst Christmas dinner**

## About the event

We are pleased to offer a special event at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, home to the future leaders of the British Army. This event will celebrate our fabulous corporate partnerships and military representatives for an afternoon of inspiration and connection.

The dinner offers a unique experience located within the prestigious Indian Army Memorial Room, overlooking RMA Sandhurst's stunning grounds and promises to be an afternoon filled with laughter, camaraderie and delicious food.

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity full of history and heritage. Mark your calendars and get ready for a military dinner to remember.

■ **Please note: This event is free to registered Members.**

## Venue

**Royal Military Academy  
Camberley  
GU15 4PQ**

## Access into Sandhurst

This will be granted via Main Gate, located on the A30, opposite Camberley Premier Inn, GU15 3LP.

The dinner offers a unique experience located within the prestigious Indian Army Memorial Room

## Ballot tickets

Due to the expected high level of interest for this event, Members expressing their interest to attend will be chosen via a random ballot. We will let you know if you've been successful via email, letter or phone call by Friday 9 January 2026.

## Important information about this event

Please read the following information before submitting your interest in this event.

No accommodation and transport will be provided by Blind Veterans UK.

## Dress code

**Males:** Military blazer, lounge suit or dinner suit.

**Females:** Knee length dress, trousers, skirt & blouse or equivalent.

**To register your interest please call 0300 111 2233 or visit**

**[www.blindveterans.org.uk/events/](http://www.blindveterans.org.uk/events/)**

# 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 projects available from the NCP in December. You can take part in as many projects as you like. To request a kit, you can leave a message on the NCP voicemail on 01273 391 447 or email us at [ncwt@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:ncwt@blindveterans.org.uk). You can also request a kit via the member's area of the website.



**Christmas bauble mosaics**

## Bauble mosaics

These festive mosaic bases come with a small hole in so you can hang your bauble in your home once it's finished! We'll send you some festive ribbon along with the usual mosaic materials. All tiles will be pre-sorted for you, although you can make your own design if you wish. **(Easy – beginners)**

## Christmas cards papercraft

This papercraft kit has materials to make your own Christmas cards and gift tags, using collage techniques. We'll provide a variety of paper, sequins and other decorative items with a Christmassy theme, and we'd encourage you to use your own materials too so you can make some unique cards to send to your loved ones!

## Hyacinths

For this year's winter indoor gardening project, we're bringing back the

Hyacinth bulbs! This kit will contain everything you need to nurture some winter blooms – there's a plastic pot and some slate chips to add interest. Suitable for indoor gardening, no additional materials required. **(Easy – beginners)**

## Your feedback matters:

Thank you so much for continuing to send in your feedback forms. We shape the NCP service on your feedback, constantly tweaking and making improvements. As the forms are anonymous, we can't get in touch with everyone individually. Here are a few common themes from the comments, and our responses.

**Regular distribution:** We know some members enjoy taking part in as many projects as they can. We have lists of members who want to receive every new project of their favourite craft – we'll automatically send you a kit once the project is ready. If you'd like to be added to the list for wooden models, mosaics, indoor gardening or papercraft, please give us a call and let us know! Similarly, if you'd like to pause your projects for a while, please get in touch and we'll adjust our lists.

**Mosaic tiles:** We've had a few questions and comments around glue application and fiddly tiles! One handy tip is to fill a small pot with PVA glue,

JENNIFER / ADOBE STOCK



## The Hyacinth bulbs are back!

take your tweezers and pick up the tile. As if you're using chopsticks, dip the base of the tile in your glue, then place it on to the base where it needs to go. We'd recommend using quite a bit of glue so your tiles can slide around on the base if you need to move them slightly to adjust the fit. It will dry clear after about three hours.

**Coming up:** We love hearing your suggestions for new projects! Here's a few things we're developing for Spring 2026. Deer head wooden model, jeep wooden model, sweet treats mandala mosaic, butterfly mosaic, greetings cards papercraft & more!

■ **We always love hearing from you, you can always get in touch via email at [ncwt@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:ncwt@blindveterans.org.uk) with any questions, feedback or to share any photographs if you wish.** 📷



VECTORFUSIONART / ADOBE STOCK



Santa and his reindeer take flight

# Festive quiz

Take on the Blind Veterans quiz: how well do you know your general knowledge?

1. What did the reindeer not let Rudolph do because of his shiny red nose?

2. Which country hosted the Eurovision song contest in 2025?

3. What do children get from Santa when they're on the "naughty list"?

4. Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?
5. Which city was the UK City of Culture in 2025?

6. Which animal was celebrated during Chinese new year 2025?

7. How many ghosts appear in 'A Christmas Carol'?

8. Which reindeers name means thunder?

9. In which modern-day country was St Nicholas born?

10. How many nights does Hanukkah last?

11. Which UK celebration takes place around New Year's and is famously held in Edinburgh?

12. Which Shakespeare play is named after the closing of Christmas festivities on 6 January?

13. Which saints day is celebrated on the 26th of December?

14. Which festival is known as the festival of light?
15. In 2025, Justin Trudeau resigned as prime minister of what country?

16. What time is the Kings speech usually broadcast on Christmas day?

17. Which world cup did England host in 2025?

18. In 2025, following the death of Pope Francis, a new Pope was elected. By what name did Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost become known?

19. In 2025 which British "ultimate pop star" celebrated over 65 years in the music business with a UK tour called "Can't stop me now"?



HRH King Charles III

20. Which carol was originally named "One Horse Open Sleigh"?

21. What is traditionally hidden inside a christmas pudding?

22. What are pigs in blankets called in Scotland?

23. In Which country is it tradition to eat a meal of 12 dishes on Christmas Eve?

Answers on back page

# Family news

## Birthdays

**Cristine King** who celebrates her 106th birthday on 21 December 2025.

**Eileen Mcallister** who celebrates her 102nd birthday on 25 December 2025.

**Eric Ambrose** who celebrates his 100th birthday on 15 December 2025.

**Frances Mullen** who celebrates her 101st birthday on 17 December 2025.

**Francis Grant** celebrates his 101st birthday on 20 December 2025.

**Hilda Shaw** celebrates her 100th birthday on 8 December 2025.

**Mikolaj Kudzierko** celebrates his 101st birthday on 15 December 2025.

**Mryddyn Davies** celebrates his 103rd birthday on 12 December 2025.

**Noel Sleigh** celebrates his 101st birthday on 12 December 2025.

**Phyllis Cliff** celebrates her 100th birthday on 16 December 2025.

## Condolences

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

**Jean Harris Beaumont** who died on 14 October 2025. She was the wife of Keith Beaumont.

**Karin Renate Redman** who died on 31 October 2025. She was the wife of Graham Redman.

**Elizabeth Frances Schartau** who died on 1 February 2025. She was the wife of John Frederick Schartau.

**Pauline Storey** who died on 5 October 2025. She was the wife of Norman Storey.

**Audrey Snowdon-Jones** who died on 22 October 2025. She was the wife of David Snowdon-Jones.

# In memory

It is with deep regret that we record the deaths of the following Members and we offer our heartfelt condolences to their widows, widowers, families and friends

**Eric Allen** of Little Hampton who died on 9 November 2025 aged 90. He served as a Lance Corporal in The Royal Armoured Corps.

**Robert Allen** of Basingstoke who died on 24 October 2025 aged 100. He served as an Engine Room Artificer in The Royal Navy.

**Joseph Baines** of Preston who died on 18 November 2025 aged 101. He served as an Ordinance Artificer in The Royal Navy.

**Norma May** Beeforth of Doncaster who died on 17 October 2025 aged 93. She served as a Private in The Women's Royal Army Corps.

**Douglas Brander** of Chippenham who died on 27 October 2025 aged 93. He served as a Private in The Royal Army Medical Corps.

**Peter Brown** of Bognor Regis who died on 15 October 2025 aged 88. He served as an S.A.C in The Royal Air Force.

**Derek Brown** of Staines-Upon-Thames who died on 25 September 2025 aged 93. He served in The Royal Air Force.

**Terence Bullingham** of Peacehaven who died on 10 November 2025 aged 81. He served as a Chief Petty Officer in The Royal Navy.

**John Chapman** of Berkhamsted who died on 10 October 2025 aged 94. He served as a Lieutenant in The Royal Iniskilling Dragoon Guards.

**Robert Burlinson Clay** of Oldham who died on 1 November 2025 aged 86. He served in The Royal Army Service Corps.

**Keith Clegg** of Accrington who died on 9 November 2025 aged 90. He served as a Private in The East Lancashire Regiment.

**Neena Crossingham** of Heathfield who died on 26 September 2025 aged 100. She served as a Private in The Auxiliary Territorial Service.

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

**George Curry** of Darlington who died on 12 November 2025 aged 91. He served as a Lance Corporal in The Royal Signals.

**Robert Dickman** of Sheffield who died on 16 October 2025 aged 102. He served as a Leading Airman in The Royal Airforce.

**Brian Elliott** of Newport Pagnell who died on 6 November 2025 aged 87. He served as an S.A.C in The Royal Air Force.

**Leslie Faram** of Newcastle who died on 24 September 2025 aged 96. He served as a Private in The General Service Corps.

**James Boyle** Anderson Getty of Portsmouth who died on 22 September 2025. He served in The Royal Army Ordinance Corps.

**Majorie Gilston** of Sheringham who died on 29 October 2025 aged 99. She served as an ACW1 in The Royal Air Force.

**Alan Gordenfelt** of Bushy Heath who died on 2 October 2025 aged 87. He served as a Senior Aircraftsman in The Royal Air Force.

**Terence Gray** of Bury St.Edmunds who died on 14 October 2025 aged 91. He served as a Lance Corporal in The Royal Army Ordinance Corps.

**Joan Grocott** of Stoke-On-Trent who died on 4 October 2025 aged 102. She served as a WREN in The Womens Royal Naval Service.

**Henry Grundy** of Bootle who died on 30 September 2025 aged 94. He served as a Sergeant in The Royal Army Pay Corps.

**Michael Harmer** of Ely who died on 10 October 2025 aged 91. He served as an S.A.C in The Royal Air Force.

**John Horn** of Frinton-On-Sea who died on 12 October 2025 aged 85. He served as a Gunner in The Royal Artillery.

**Derek Hudson** of Plymouth who died on 1 October 2025 aged 84. He served as a Able Seaman in The Royal Navy.

**John Jones** of Leicester who died on 9 November 2025 aged 98. He served as a Corporal in The Royal Army Service Corps.

**Russell Jones** of Newport who died on 1 November 2025 aged 96. He served as a Sergeant in The General Service Corps.

**Peter Jones** of Whitchurch who died on 29 October 2025 aged 88. He served as a Gunner in The Royal Artillery.

**David Jones** of Llandudno who died on 24 September 2025 aged 88. He served as a Private in The Royal Engineers.

**David Walton Joy** of Haywards Heath who died on 21 September 2025 aged 92. He served in The Royal Artillery.

**Barrie Kesteven** of Mansfield who died on 14 November 2025 aged 87. He served as an S.A.C in The Royal Air Force.

**John Kipping** of Clacton-On-Sea who died on 2 November 2025 aged 88. He served as a Lance Corporal in The Royal Armoured Corps.

**Roy Lakin** of Stone who died on 10 November 2025 aged 91. He served as an S.A.C in The Royal Air Force.

**Joseph Lewis** of Kington who died on 1 October 2025 aged 90. He served as a Private in The Worcestershire Regiment.

**Leonard Lewis** of Gloucester who died on 1 September 2025 aged 83. He served as a Lance Corporal in The Royal Signals.

**John Lilley** of Stockport who died on 17 October 2025 aged 88. He served as a Steward in The Royal Navy.

**James Lowe** of Fleetwood who died on 1 October 2025 aged 79. He served as an S.A.C in The Royal Air Force.

**James Lynch** of Derby who died on 7 October 2025 aged 91. He served as a Senior Aircraftsman in The Royal Air Force.

**William Madden** of Stanley who died on 14 November 2025 aged 85. He served as a Corporal in The Northumberland Fusiliers.

**Douglas Marsh** of Spalding who died on 2 November 2025 aged 102. He served as an S.A.C in The Royal Air Force.

**George Matthews** of Spalding who died on 8 October 2025 aged 92. He served as an A.C.2 in The Royal Air Force.

**James Murphy** of Birkenhead who died on 29 September 2025 aged 92. He served as a Royal Marine.

**Roger Newman** of Biggleswade who died on 15 October 2025 aged 99. He served as a Sergeant in The Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

**Donald Oates** of London who died on 22 September 2025 aged 87. He served as an S.A.C in The Royal Air Force.

**John Pearce** of Stowmarket who died on 15 October 2025 aged 99. He served as a Telegraphist in The Royal Navy.

**Keith Piddell** of Sherborne who died on 15 September 2025 aged 93. He served as a Leading Aircraftsman in The Royal Airforce.

**Ronald Pollitt** of Liverpool who died in 27 October 2025 aged 100. He served as a War Substantive Sergeant in The Royal Army.

**Alan Potter** of Poole who died on 1 September 2025 aged 81. He served as a Sergeant in The Royal Air Force.

**Alex Potts** of Sutton Coldfield who died on 18 November 2025 aged 83. He served as a Major in The Royal Army Chaplains.

**Keith Puplett** of Peterborough who died on 24 October 2025 aged 81. He served as a Sergeant in The Royal Air Force.

**Robert Rance** of Southampton who died on 17 September 2025 aged 98. He served as an A.C.1 in The Royal Air Force.

**Colin Robinson** of Reading who died on 30 October 2025 aged 93. He served in The Royal Air Force.

**John Ryan** of Woodhall Spa who died on 2 November 2025 aged 100. He served as a Signaller in The Royal Navy.

**John Shrimplin** of North Shields who died on 17 September 2025 aged 87. He served as an L.A.C in The Royal Air Force.

**Richard Skelton** of Epsom who died on 30 October 2025 aged 88. He served as a Sergeant in The Royal Air Force.

**Barrie Smith** of Windermere who died on 1 October 2025 aged 86. He served as a Lance Corporal in The Royal Signals.

**Alfred Smith** of Lincoln who died on 2 October 2025 aged 89. He served as a Corporal in The Royal Army Medical Corps.

**Patrick Splain** of Clacton-On-Sea who died on 4 November 2025 aged 88. He served as a Petty Officer in The Royal Navy.

**Leslie Springall** of Lincolnshire who died on 27 September 2025 aged 86. He served as a Private in The Royal Army Ordinance Corps.

**Colin Stevenson** of Stockbridge who died on 1 November 2025 aged 97. He served as a Major in The Royal Army.

**Derek Levingston Thomas** of Liverpool who died on 4 November 2025 aged 77. He served as an Assistant Steward in The Merchant Navy.

**Betty Thomas** of Aylesford who died on 29 October 2025 aged 101. She served as a Lance Corporal in The Auxiliary Territorial Service.

**Stanley Thompson** of Dartford who died on 3 October 2025 aged 91. He served as a Private in The Royal Signals.

**Donald Trevallion** of Newton Abbot who died on 28 October 2025 aged 94. He served as an S.A.C in The Royal Air Force.

**Peter Waldron** of Cardiff who died on 17 September 2025 aged 89. He served as a Petty Officer in The Royal Navy.

**Michael Warne** of Oxted who died on 11 October 2025 aged 97. He served as a Steward in The Royal Navy.

**George Weld-Richards** of Prescott who died on 23 October 2025 aged 79. He served as a Sergeant in The Royal Signals.

**Edward West** of Bedford who died on 1 November 2025 aged 93. He served as an Engineer in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

**Bernard Wildman** of Rochdale who died on 15 October 2025 aged 92. He served in The Royal Air Force.

**James Wilson** of Motherwell who died on 30 October 2025 aged 87. He served as a Cook in The Royal Air Force.

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