



# Review

The journal of  
Blind Veterans UK

**October 2023**

## Welcome to Rustington

As our permanent residents and staff move to our new  
Sussex home, we answer your questions about the centre



### **Inside:**

HMS Sultan Summer Camp  
Outstanding achievements  
at the World Blind Games  
A unique quiz group



Rebuilding  
lives after  
sight loss





Listen here

# Get your blazer badge

Did you spot our Blind Veterans UK Blazer Badge on the cover of the July issue?

Handmade in the UK by quality craftsmen. Our shield-shaped badges have a soft felt backing with wire embroidery in gold thread. Get

ready for Remembrance and order your badge now to wear with pride. Available on our shop for £25.00 including P&P.

■ **To purchase, visit [blindveterans.org.uk/shop](https://www.blindveterans.org.uk/shop) or contact Supporter Services on 0300 111 22 33.**



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### On the cover

Rustington staff members standing outside the new Rustington Centre.





# A summer of achievements

Your message from your Chief Executive, **Adrian Bell**

Although the summer weather has been a bit variable, I hope many of you have been able to benefit from September's good spell, which has given us a taste of summer that so many of us missed.

The weather notwithstanding, life in the charity has been very busy. As I write this, our permanent residents have just moved into their new home in Rustington and their first impressions are incredibly positive.



**Caption: Adrian Bell**

Rustington has been an incredible refurbishment project and I have to pay tribute to the many staff and external organisations who have worked so hard to ensure a fitting centre for our Members. Lesley Garven and her team have worked tirelessly to maintain spirits at Brighton whilst also striving hard to deliver Rustington. I am incredibly grateful to them for their hard work.

Whilst we are presently focused on settling in our permanent residents, our thoughts and actions are already turning to welcoming other Members later this year and certainly in time for Christmas.



**Caption: The front entrance of the Rustington Centre**

There is still work to be done. Whilst the Centre is largely complete, there are several outbuildings requiring minor works, as do the grounds. We are hoping that a corporate partner will shortly be assisting us in restoring and refreshing the pavilion so that all can enjoy a cuppa and the effects of being so close to, but sheltered from, the sea.

**“Our thoughts and actions are already turning to welcoming other Members later this year”**

We can also start integrating with the local community as people stroll up and down the wonderful promenade that runs directly past the pavilion.

The grounds continue to be work in hand. Rather than a landscaping makeover, we have decided to clear the grounds of the overgrowing scrub and largely plant grass seed. This will allow residents and Members to be a part of a growing and, in time, vibrant garden by contributing thoughts and ideas that I hope will create something that all will enjoy. The Memorial Garden is being created at the eastern side of the Centre as a feature to be enjoyed →



not only by those in the garden, but also as people approach the Centre; this will include the 'Lest We Forget' feature and the Robert Leader bench. We are also moving the barn from Brighton, which will be positioned to the western end of the garden along from the pavilion.

The closure of Brighton is a real wrench for so many people and I very much respect just how many people feel this so deeply. For Members and staff alike, this has been an incredibly difficult period and will continue to be for a long time to come. Part of my focus going forward is how we best support Members for whom Brighton meant so much and I am keen to hear from you all. I am very sorry that I was unable to attend the closing ceremony in August due to illness, but I was able to go to the staff farewell party in September.

Although I have only been with the charity a very short time, I have had the privilege of experiencing the warmth and magic of the Brighton Centre and I share in the emotion of it closing. The reality is as it is however, and I hope we can create the sort of Centre at Rustington that matches Members' needs in the twenty-first century; forming a legacy of its own in time. I look forward to seeing many of you there in due course.

## “I have had the privilege of experiencing the warmth and magic of the Brighton Centre”

None of this takes the spotlight away from Llandudno, which continues to thrive. I am very much looking forward to my next visit there later in September. Llandudno was recently subject to a no-notice inspection (as is always the case) from the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW), the equivalent of the English Care Quality Commission (CQC). It will come as no surprise to the many of you who know Llandudno just how well the team did. CIW inspected the Centre against a number of categories and assessed it as excellent in each and every area. This is a huge testament to the team and I am delighted to have the opportunity to thank them all so very sincerely and publicly.

Further afield, I had the pleasure of visiting some of our Members at the HMS Sultan summer camp in July. One of our Members, Jan Price, talks about her experience of the camp this year on Page 24.

Lastly on the sports scene, I must recognise the great achievements of three of our Members, Terry Piper, Carol Davies and Clive Jones, at the

recent IBSA World Games held in Birmingham, which you can read more about on Page 28. Very well done to all three for your achievements, you are an inspiration to us all!

I finish with the latest update on the railway ticket office issue. Consultation closed on 1 September having received an impressive 680,000 responses. These replies are being reviewed by the watchdogs Transport Focus and London Travelwatch, which will assess plans for each individual closure and can refer the decision to the transport secretary if they uphold public

objections. This process will reportedly run until the end of October. I have spoken to many of you on this matter and I would encourage you all to write to your Member of Parliament if you feel you will be adversely affected. Your local community team can help should you so need. We continue to engage with other VI charities on this issue and are considering our options going forward.

My thanks to you for reading this and please don't hesitate to feedback any comments or questions as I'm keen to know what is of value to you in the Review and how we can improve it. 🌍



**Caption: Adrian with participants and staff of HMS Sultan Summer Camp**



# News

## Our permanent residents move into Rustington

Over three days in September our 11 permanent residents from the Brighton Centre moved the 19 miles along the coast to their new home in Rustington. As they arrived they were greeted by a guard of honour from the Rustington staff, before being taken up to their new rooms and cutting a ceremonial ribbon to represent the start of their new chapter.

Lesley Garven, Head of the Rustington Centre, said: "It was a very smooth move from Brighton to Rustington and that's down to the hard work of the amazing staff we have both in Brighton and Rustington. Our permanent residents are now getting settled into their new home and we're looking forward to receiving our first visitors to this amazing location."

This is the first step in our phased opening of the Rustington Centre as we gradually bring our construction to a close by the end of the year.

We are excited to welcome more



**Caption: Nancy with Rustington Centre staff**

Members to our new home as soon as we're able to.

Once again, a huge thank you to the Brighton Centre for its support over the last 85 years!

## Rustington Telephone Number

Now that we have completed our move to our new centre in Rustington, please make sure to save our new Reception number: **01903 945300**.

■ **If you want to book a stay at our new Rustington Centre, our Rustington bookings team can be contacted by dialling 01273 391 500.**

## Art Installation at new Rustington Centre

Immediately as you enter the Rustington Centre you're greeted by a statue which is a contemporary representation of the community and purpose that is Blind Veterans UK.

The statue features seven people and includes a younger veteran with guide dog, Army personnel, Gurkha personnel, Navy personnel, an older veteran with carer and RAF personnel.

It represents us moving forward together and providing comradeship and support to one another and is inspired by our 'Victory over Blindness' statue installed at Manchester Piccadilly Station in 2018.

The statue has been rendered in cut



**Caption: View of sculpture at Rustington Centre from the left**

steel with additional detailing using other layered metals to create an interactive and tactile experience. The faces have been made using copper, meaning they're warmer to the touch than other parts of the statue as copper conducts more heat than steel.

Paul Badham designed and created the statue. He said: "The key things we considered when designing the statue were to ensure it was fully inclusive and represented the charity, as well as making sure it was layered and tactile so someone with a vision impairment could enjoy it in the same way as someone who's sighted."

"This was my first experience making something tactile with so many layers so I had to make a special machine out of a car jack which squashes metal in order to create the uniforms and make them fold up." →



**Caption: View of sculpture at Rustington Centre from the right**



Listen here



BUMBLE DEE / ADOBE STOCK

**Caption: Great Britain flag**

"I felt extremely honoured to have been asked in the first place and as I spent more time on the statue I learnt more and more about the charity. I'm really pleased with how it all came out and I think it's a wonderful area for it to be placed as well. I hope the Members of Blind Veterans UK enjoy it."

## RBL 'Credit their Service' Campaign

The Royal British Legion recently launched "Credit their Service", a campaign demanding an end to the treatment of military compensation as income by welfare benefit means tests, which results in veterans and their families missing out on

thousands of pounds a year.

150,000 veterans and their families receive compensation awarded by the government for the pain and loss they endured in service to HM Armed Forces. This compensation is considered income when determining eligibility for many benefits, while civil compensation awarded by courts, such as personal injury or medical negligence compensation, is exempt.

The RBL are urging the UK Government to amend benefit regulations and calling on councils to use discretionary powers to make sure that they do not treat compensation as income for local support.

RBL are asking veterans to write to their MP and ask for them to support the 'Credit their Service' campaign. You can find out more on the RBL website. 🇬🇧

## Next month's Review will be delayed

We wanted to notify Members that our November issue will be delayed slightly as we will be sharing photos of our Founder's Awards ceremony being held later in October.

# What's on in your area

Our Director of Operations, **Nicky Shaw**, shares an update about how we are reinvesting in our community services.

The pandemic brought with it many obstacles for us as a charity. However, with your support, it also provided us with an opportunity to take a step back and have a real look at our services; what was working well, what could work better and what we could offer in the future. Earlier this year, I wrote to you in Review about our new service offer having undertaken a review.

This new service offer is based around continuing to provide a range of activities that support your wellbeing; as well as specialist services that are specific to a goal you may have, or if you're going through a challenging time in your life. We are excited to share that we are now starting to bring this new service offer to life.

We have been reinvesting in staffing levels in the community recently, including Community Support Workers and ROVIs. We are introducing Wellbeing Support

Workers to community teams who can assist Members with more general rehabilitation. Also, we have made some small changes to our management team to improve consistency in our services across the country.

A big focus for us is providing more opportunities for Members to get together locally. We will be making sure that you have access to a list of these local opportunities that are available for you to join.

Our community and centre services will continue to be supported by a national team providing volunteering, creative projects, Member engagement opportunities and support.



**Caption: Nicky Shaw**

■ **If you have any comments, observations, or feedback you'd like to share, please contact your local Community team.**



# In your community

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

## Afternoon tea in Bedfordshire

Despite the recent poor weather, Members from the Bedfordshire area were able to enjoy an afternoon of sunshine and meet up with fellow Members for a spot of tea. Fellow Member David and his wife Sue organised and hosted a wonderful

afternoon tea in their garden. They were joined by staff from partner organisations like the Macular Society, the Northill Royal British Legion branch, Veterans Community Network and two local volunteers. For one of our volunteers, this was their first time meeting Members in person. In addition, a collection of £130 was made towards Blind Veterans UK.



**Caption: Afternoon tea in Bedfordshire**



**Caption: Coffee morning in Northampton**

## Coffee morning in Northampton

Members from Northampton attended a peer support/coffee morning at St Crispin Retirement Village in August, where they were able to chat to other Members over coffee and biscuits.

## IT Support Group in Gloucestershire

The sun was shining on Members and IT Instructor Becky for their support group session. This peer-to-peer support group enjoy coming together to share knowledge and skills. The group's takeaway was to exchange emails and practice in between sessions.

## Touring Glasgow's People's Palace

Members in Scotland, assisted by volunteers Gary, Frances and Roy, enjoyed a day out at the People's Palace in Glasgow. They were given an object handling tour and spent time exploring the museum. The tour ended in a single end Glasgow tenement where beds, sink, coal bunker, cupboards, pulley, fireplace and cooking range would all be crammed into the one room. One Member commented that it was the best day out he'd had in ages! →



**Caption: Peer to peer IT support session in Gloucestershire**





# Your questions about our new Rustington Centre answered

As we put the finishing touches to our new Rustington Centre before the grand opening, we wanted to answer the questions you put to our wonderful Rustington Member Design Consultation Group earlier in the year

Group members, Sue Eyles and Alan Walker carefully collated all your questions and worked hard to make sure nothing was missed.

Sue says, "We made sure to capture everything. If anything isn't clear, or you have another question, please do get in touch with us via the Review editor." →



**Caption: Members at the Hanger 42 Visitor Centre**

## A trip to the Spitfire Visitor Centre

Fylde Coast Members enjoyed a trip to Hanger 42 Visitor Centre recently to see restored Spitfires.

They enjoyed various exhibitions and a guided tour where they could touch and feel the planes, along with other memorabilia including ammunitions, World War II uniforms, vehicles and bicycles of the era.

A highlight of the trip was the restored Hurricane aircraft, which Members were amazed by.

Following this, Members enjoyed a fish and chip lunch at the Air Balloon Pub.

All in all, the day was filled with smiles, learning, laughter and sun! A wonderful introduction to Blind Veterans UK for some brand new Members and a day to remember for two centenarians who came along at 100 and 101 years old. 🇬🇧

**What's going on in your area?**

**Contact your local community team who can tell you everything you need to know.**



**Caption: The front entrance of our Rustington Centre**





**Caption: Rustington Centre staff standing on the beach outside the Centre**

## Facilities at the centre

**Q. What amenities and activities will be on offer in the building?**

**A.** There will be a hair salon, massage and therapy, a gym, arts and crafts, and activities.

**Q. Will there be a programme of daily activities and day trips for people on holiday, rather than themed weeks?**

**A.** Yes, activities and day trips will be provided.

**Q. Can Members who aren't staying at the Centre book a table for lunch?**

**And can family or friends visiting be booked in for lunch?**

**A.** Yes, we will have a booking system for any Members who aren't staying but wish to dine with us, including family and friends accompanying the Member, subject to booking availability.

**Q. How will the pavilion be used during both the day and the evening?**

**A.** The Guardroom will help link the community to our Centre and will have café facilities and host events.

**Q. Will there be a workshop?**

**A.** Not on site, but we are exploring the



**Caption: Left, lounge area, right, view of Rustington Centre from outside**



possibilities of using a local workshop.

**Q. If the Centre is hosting a themed week, will there be any space left for Members to book a holiday?**

**A.** Although it's difficult to predict numbers, we will, of course, make full use of our accommodation and hope to welcome you all to Rustington.

**Q. If Members are staying in the two self-contained flats, will they be allowed to have their meals in the main building?**

**A.** This option can be discussed on booking as meals in the restaurant can

be provided.

**Q. What provisions are being put in place for guide dogs?**

**A.** When the Centre opens there will be a fully-lit spending area with artificial grass. However, when the landscaping is complete there will be an area for free running of dogs at the rear of the building. We also plan to have a grooming room when we do the second phase of the build, which will include a wash down and dry for dogs who have been in the sea.

**Q. Maintaining a military**







**Caption: Left, entrance to Rustington centre, middle, cafe counter**

**Caption: Right, a sea view bedroom**

**feel to the Centre is paramount to Members. How will this be achieved?**

**A.** This has been at the forefront of our design and our Member design team have provided excellent advice to make sure we celebrate our proud history and heritage throughout.

**Rooms**

**Q. Other than space for the permanent residents, how many rooms will be available for Members?**

**A.** There are 23 rooms available

consisting of nine singles, three twins, eight doubles and three for those requiring care.

**Q. Does each room have a wet room?**

**A.** Yes, each room has a wet-room style shower which is fully accessible.

**Q. Will there be tea and coffee facilities in the bedrooms with cordless kettles and mini fridges?**

**A.** Yes.

**Q. Will there be the option to use smart technology for lighting?**

**A.** Rooms have been designed with smart technology including lighting. This won't be available straightaway but will be implemented during the first year.

**Q. Will rooms have fixed opening windows?**

**A.** Yes, although there are restrictions on how far they can be opened for health and safety reasons.

**Security at the centre**

**Q. What type of door entry system will there be?**

**A.** A tap card entry system.

**Q. Will there be 24-hour security, motion detector lights and lighting at the dog spending area?**

**A.** Yes to all.

**Q. If we go out in the evening will we only be able to enter the building via the front entrance?**

**A.** From 22:00, entry will be via the front entrance to ensure security of the site during the night.

**Q. Will there be a lockable drawer in each room?**

**A.** Yes.







**Caption: Left, chairs in the reception area, middle, lounge and bar**

**Caption: Right, the beach outside the centre**

## The local area

**Q. Will there be a shuttle bus service if Members are not able to walk?**

**A.** This can be provided as it was at our Brighton centre.

**Q. Is there pelican or zebra crossing points on the route into the village?**

**A.** Not yet, we plan to work with the local council regarding this.

**Q. Is there signage on approaching roads to alert people of vision-impaired people, as with Llandudno?**

**A.** No, but we will engage with the

local council over this matter.

**Q. Do the local buses “talk” like they do in Brighton?**

**A.** We have spoken to local bus company, Stagecoach, who said all services have an audio notification of stops. Our nearest stop is at the end of Seafield Road, on Sea Lane. This is served by two routes the number 12 and 9. The number 9 has a stop at Angmering station and the number 12 has a stop at Littlehampton station. We have requested that the Seafield Road stops say “please alight here for Blind Veterans UK”.

**Q. Will connections be made with a reputable taxi company, especially for those with guide dogs.**

**A.** Yes, we will source local taxi firms.

## Accessibility at the centre

**Q. Will staff wear lighter coloured uniform to help us identify them?**

**A.** Yes, a mix of light and dark uniforms have been sourced for Rustington.

**Q. Will there be handrails throughout the building, and will we still walk on the right-hand side?**

**A.** Yes to both.

**Q. Will toilets have raised seats and handrails? And will the showers have seats and handrails?**

**A.** Portable raised seats and shower seats are available on request. Toilets and showers have grab rails fitted.

**Q. How easy will it be to navigate around the Rustington Centre, and will the beach be accessible?**

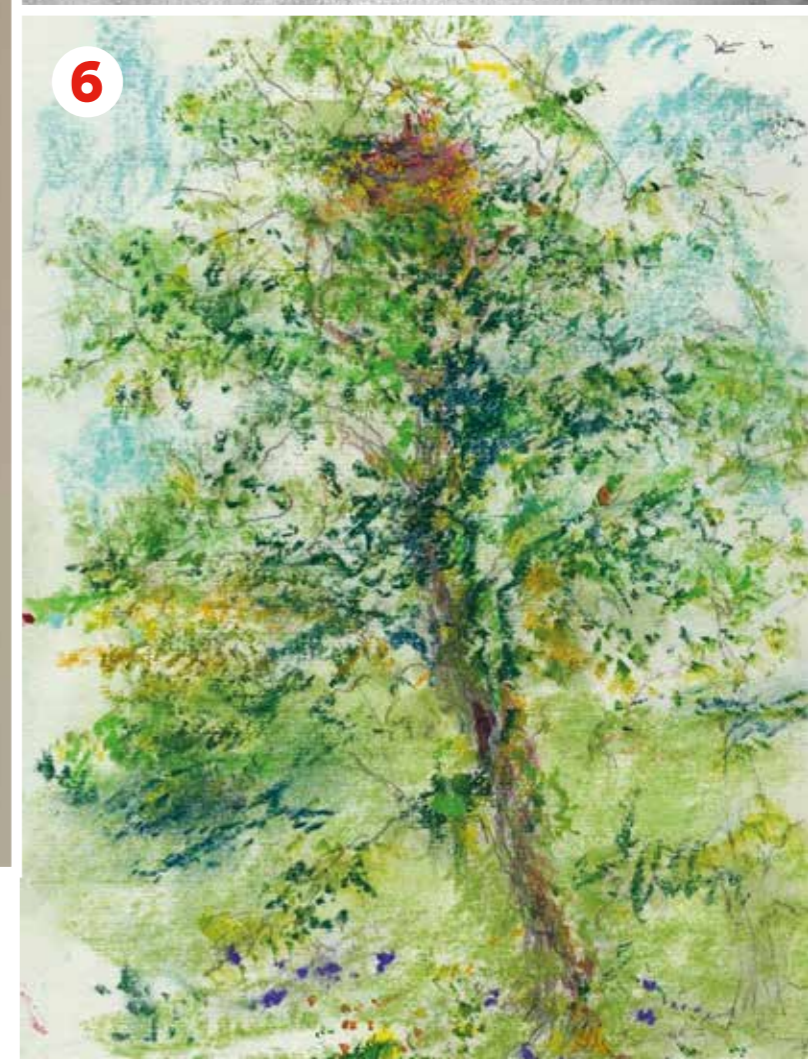
**A.** We will have guiding rails, Alexa devices and a simple layout. Access to the beach, including for those in wheelchairs, can be made via the Guardroom café. 🗺️



# Artistic Flair

We are pleased to present more artwork by our Members for the National Creative Project

Captions: **1. Michael Godley - Sunset over forest** **2. Lewis Evans - Sunrise**  
**3. Andrew Wilson - Pablo Picasso Portrait** **4. David Beresford - Mountain**  
**5. Matthew McGowan - Fishing trip** **6. Rita Scarratt - Tree**







Listen here



**Caption: Members throwing beanbags**

# Hi-de-hi!

As the first ever woman to attend our Members' summer camp, hosted by HMS Sultan, **Jan Price** shares her diary of a 'rare treasure' of a week

For over 50 years, the Blind Veterans UK Summer Camp on HMS Sultan has been supported by the Fleet Air Arm Field Gun Crew - affectionately known as the 'dogs' (as in guide dogs).

This year, I was welcomed as the first female camper. No pressure...

## Friday

A band of helpers collected us and we were shown our rooms. If required, our 'dogs' helped us square our kit away. A welcome brief with the week's events followed: there was something for everyone, no matter what age or ability.



**Caption: Member kicking a ball**

## Saturday

A visit on the water hosted by the Solent Sailing Club. Unfortunately, the weather Gods were against us and, due to gale force winds and rain, we were forced to stay alongside at the club socialising, before enjoying the most amazing buffet I've had the privilege to eat.

The afternoon saw a few of us try our hands (and legs) at the HMS Sultan climbing wall. Everest it wasn't, but we all had fun achieving our own summits before legs and arms turned, quite literally, to jelly.

The evening entertainment was a quiz

and plenty of laughs and old-fashioned military banter afoot.

## Sunday

A walk to Stoke's Bay with eight campers and our associated 'dogs', followed by the afternoon's activity in glorious weather: archery. Now, whoever thought that giving a bunch of blind veterans a sharp stick that shoots out of a bow at warp factor daft was a good idea needs to take a serious look at the risk assessment forms.

That said, it was a blast and while there were several highly competitive campers vying to win the title, I was just happy to hit the target at all and grateful not to hear anyone scream in agony when I'd missed.

## Monday

Potted sports in the morning; to say there was some questionable counting going on would be a bit of an understatement. Our team was lucky enough to have both Commanding Officer HMS Sultan, Jo Deakin, and the CEO of Blind Veterans UK, Adrian Bell, on board. There was lots of laughter and banter and we even made the local TV news.

During the walking race, Member Charlie Eastwood released his inner Olympian and trounced the rest of →





**Caption: Members throwing hula hoops to each other**

the campers. We then had the most enjoyable time learning the basic skills and strategies of the incredibly tactical sport of bowls, watched by a family of foxes.

The evening was yet another phenomenal buffet accompanied by a quiz. I'm happy to report that my team came away triumphant although, if I'm honest, I'm not entirely sure how.

## Tuesday

The morning was a most informative tour of Bombay Sapphire Gin Distillery where we heard how the 85 million bottles of gin are transported to Scotland at more than double strength in unmarked tankers.

Not surprisingly, given our destination, the ride back was a fun-filled 90 minutes with some questionable singing.

## Wednesday

We released our show jumping divas at the Royal Artillery Equestrian Centre on Thorney Island, then on to Fort Nelson to see the amazing 'Waking with Giants' exhibition. There were 358 life-sized silhouettes all facing the same way to mark the 358 lives lost during the Falklands War. Simply stunning.

In the evening, we were hosted by HMS Sultan Wardrobe (sorry, Wardroom) and the Junior Engineering Officers, and I caught up with an old friend I haven't spoken to since 1990.

Another quiz followed, which covered every genre and age range possible, and a team getting disqualified for using Google to find some of the answers.

## Thursday

The sun was out and all you could hear from the group was laughter and banter as we embarked on a game of crazy cheating, I mean crazy golf.

On the last hole, my 'dog' helped position the ball for me, centred the golf club and gave me the 'give it a

whack' order. So, I did, only to hear the course owner yell 'Yes!' at the top of his voice. It turns out I'd only gone and got a genuine pucker hole in one!

Then it was the highlight of my week - a trip on HMS Sultan's 93-year-old steam lorry. It's a sight to behold with a top speed of 30-31mph and throughout the afternoon the vehicle was met with cheers, waves and a multitude of photos and videos from passers-by.

We then had a formal evening of presentations. Our 'dogs' looked very dapper in their Fleet Air Arm Field Gun green blazers, and it was another fabulous night of laughter and banter. I even won a trophy for my hole in one.



**Caption: Member kicking a ball**

## Friday

The morning after the night before saw the AGM and a trip to the Haslar Memorial Gardens or WWI Remembrance Centre. It was a time for quiet reflection for those comrades, family and friends who are no longer with us. I was then invited to attend the weekly meat draw at the Senior Ratings Mess onboard HMS Victory.

Friday evening was spent listening to amazing pipes and drums. The sound of bagpipes is a sound like no other and a fitting tribute to the end of an incredible week.

## Final thoughts

Sadly, during the AGM, Andy Salter who has organised this incredible week for several years, informed us that this was to be his last. The silence was deafening.

As I said to the 'dogs' at the end, losing your sight can be a scary, dark, lonely place and for one whole week a year they help us turn on a metaphorical light allowing lightness, laughter and company back into our lives. I promptly had 12 ruffy-tuffy blokes in a bear hug, with at least a few with tears in their eyes.

The week was a rare treasure. I just hope we can go again next year. 🍷



# The adventures of three members at the World Blind Games

In August this year, three blind veteran archers travelled to Birmingham for the World Blind Games. **Hazel Wills** speaks to Terry, Clive and Carol about their achievements at the competition

## Terry Piper

I started receiving support from Blind Veterans UK in 2022, after losing my sight due to diabetic retinopathy. I also have strabismus which means my eyes don't align together. When I joined the charity, I was eager to pursue my passion for archery and joined the Blind Veterans UK Bowmen.

I've participated in several coaching sessions at the Brighton Centre this year, where I've not only honed my archery skills but also formed strong

bonds with fellow members of the Bowmen Club.

I hold a B4 sight classification, which reflects my specific visual acuity level in the context of archery classification. Being invited to shoot for Great Britain came as a surprise as B4 and B5 classified archers are not recognised by the governing body for international competitions. The IBSA World Games was the first time lower sight classifications could compete on the global stage. →



Caption: Carol Davies holding her bow and arrow at the Birmingham British Blind Sport Championships



Caption: Clive Jones in action at the games



Caption: Carol, Terry and Clive at the IBSA World Cup Games



During the qualification rounds, I ranked first and eventually won the World Archery 30m Vision Impaired Open gold medal in the finals.

Overall, the competition underlined the triumphs achievable by vision-impaired individuals in archery, even at this level. We hope that this event, alongside others we partake in, serves as a potent motivator for fellow vision impaired individuals interested in embracing archery as a sport.

### Clive Jones

I was blinded in 2000 whilst serving as a soldier in the British Army. After an unprovoked attack, I was left in a coma for six days. When I awoke, I couldn't see anything.

Here I am in 2023, having represented my country this summer at several archery competitions. I really hope my story encourages other blind and partially sighted people to give sport a go. The journey to get to where I am today has been challenging but finding Blind Veterans UK was the best thing that could have happened to me. They helped me to live again, teaching me the skills to use a computer, count money, iron, prepare food safely and use a white cane to become more mobile.

The charity introduced me to archery

in 2001. There were so many sports I'd tried beforehand but nothing felt as therapeutic as archery. As someone who suffers from PTSD, the relaxing feeling that I get when I am shooting is phenomenal.

I soon signed up to British Blind Sport's archery section and regularly practiced with my spotter. They tell me where my arrow has fallen and I do a lot of visualisation work with them to improve my game. This process has been essential to helping me reach the level I am at now.

Archery has opened so many doors for me. Not only have I formed a wonderful circle of friends, but it's also helped me to adapt, made me and my family stronger, and given me the social skills I lost after being blinded.

When I represented Great Britain at the World Para Championships and the European Para Championships, I was reminded of how far I'd come.

Competing in this elite environment prepared me for a summer of competition in 2023. After going to the World Para Championships and the European Championships, shooting personal bests and nearly breaking the British record, I was then back on home soil for the 2023 World Blind Games alongside Carol and Terry.

This was a wonderful competition where thousands of vision impaired athletes from over 70 countries competed at the highest level. I shot very well in the qualification and knock-out rounds, progressing to the gold medal match. Here I would face a formidable opponent: the former world champion, current world record holder and European champion. Sadly, I lost the match but secured the silver medal for Great Britain. I also won another silver medal at the British Blind Sport National Outdoor Championships two days later. Progress is being made!

### Carol Davies:

From the moment I arrived in Birmingham for the World Blind Games, it was an incredibly busy week. The first thing I had to do was my international sight classification test, which I needed to compete in the Games. I was classified as a VI 2, the same class as my British Blind Sport classification.

My spotter, Malcolm, travelled to Birmingham the following day just in time for our unofficial archery practice which took place on the athletics field. It really was a great venue; most days we must have walked around four to five miles, sometimes more!

There was a fantastic atmosphere throughout the week; we met lots of

archers from around the world and athletes from other sports. It was an amazing opportunity to showcase our VI Archery and hopefully heighten its profile. I loved every minute of it and am very proud to have taken part. I believe I was the oldest archer on the field at 72, which goes to show it is a sport for any age and any ability.

On the Thursday, following official practice, we had the qualification round, which consisted of shooting 72 arrows on an 80cm face. We then shot against another archer in a head-to-head. This, sadly, is where I went out of the competition.

However, I redeemed myself a bit when I came third in our British Blind Sport Championships. Now it is back home for more archery practice! 🏹



**Caption: Clive on the podium**



# Steven's thirst for competition rekindled

At the age of 54, having loved participating in sports, **Steven Gill** lost his sight and thought he'd be stuck inside forever; that his life would be over. Hazel Wills talks to Steven about how he changed his mindset and became a bowls champion.

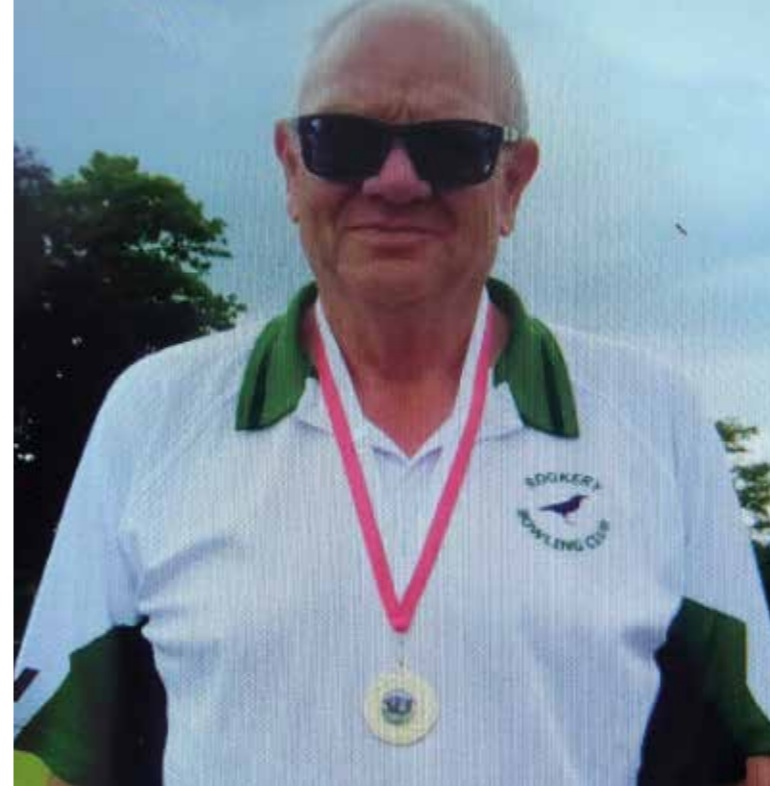
Before losing his sight, Steven played rugby for his county for ten years, enjoyed fishing and worked hard to secure a black belt in judo.

In 2013 and after losing his sight,

Steven's wife found out about Blind Veterans UK. Steven says: "I got in touch with the charity; they were so quick to start helping me and to get me out of the rut I was in. Blind Veterans UK gave me the confidence I needed



**Caption: Steven and his bowls partner holding a trophy**



**Caption: Steven wearing his medal**

to move forward and to eventually rekindle my thirst for competitive sport."

Steven became the National Visually Impaired Bowls England B4 Pairs Champion at the Visually Impaired Bowls England Championships held in Leamington Spa in June.

"During my introductory week at the Brighton Centre, I was encouraged to give bowls a go. Before I went to Brighton, I was struggling and was at the lowest point in my life, but I came out with hope. The charity taught me how to live life to the full. Before sight loss, I was quite competitive and that spark had gone. However, being introduced to bowls, I found a way for me to be competitive once more.

"I got home from Brighton and

contacted some local bowls clubs to see if I could get involved. I now play three times a week. Last year I won three competitions against sighted members.

"When my partner and I became National Visually Impaired Bowls England B4 Pairs Champions, I burst into tears.

"We won six games on the trot. The team we played in the final match had won five and that team had previously represented England, so it was a big step up for us. That moment gave me the adrenaline pump I used to get when competing in other sports.

"I will continue to play bowls and see where it takes me. Next up I'm taking part in the semi-final of the district triples which is a sighted competition. I'm not doing so bad for someone who can't see.

"I wouldn't be able to do any of this without the support of my wife and without that initial introduction to the sport from Blind Veterans UK, I may well still be sat here wallowing.

"The charity allowed me to meet other veterans and to draw from their experience. Now I am able to share my experience and hopefully inspire others." 🍷

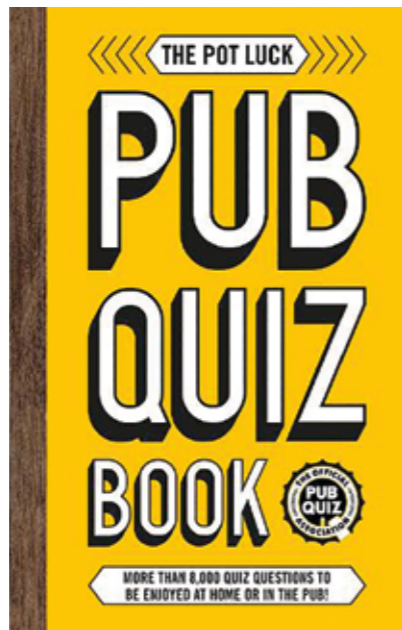


# A unique quiz group

On the third Tuesday of every month at two o'clock in the afternoon, four Members in Southwest England join together via a group telephone call to take part in the big 'Virtual Pub Quiz'. Community Support Worker, **Jenny Gaywood**, tells us why this group is so special.

This monthly quiz has been running for a couple of years. With a joint age of 392 years, it is not just any quiz group. Three of the Members are 100 years or over and they are joined by a youngster at 91 years.

They participate in an hour of general knowledge quiz questions, hearing each other's knowledge of certain topics. I am always blown away with how they have retained so much information and I wanted to introduce you to them!



**Caption: The pub quiz book**

## **Peggy Harding (101-years-old)**

Peggy enlisted into the Women's Royal Naval Service (Wrens) in 1943. After serving as an official Duties Linguist, serving in France, Germany and the UK, Peggy was discharged as a 3rd Officer Wren in 1946.

Peggy has always enjoyed swimming and used to regularly go open water swimming in the sea at Torquay where she lives. She still regularly attends Blind Veterans UK Coffee mornings.

Peggy says, "I really enjoy the quiz tremendously. I couldn't answer a single question in University Challenge, so hope I am better in the virtual quiz."

## **Joan Jepson (101-years-old)**

Joan joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in March 1942, serving in the UK and Italy. She was discharged as a Private in 1954 and joined the Foreign Office, working in Vienna.

Living in a small sleepy Devon village, she enjoys gardening and tennis, and is a very popular character in the village.



**Caption: Peggy holding a phone**

"I enjoy taking part in the quiz as I like history and the questions get my brain working"

Joan says: "I absolutely love taking part in the monthly quiz. It really gets the grey matter going and it's good to keep you brain active."

## **Dick Northam (100-years-old)**

Dick joined the RAF in July 1942 and trained as a fitter on DC3's in India. He was discharged as a Leading Aircraftman in January



**Caption: Dick holding a phone**



1947. After this, he went to live in South Africa, working as a fitter in the South African Air Force and returned to the UK in 1953.

He used to play bowls to a very high standard and was an international bowls umpire. Dick has a huge knowledge of local history and still enjoys socialising in his local area of Wellington, Somerset.



**Caption: Gilmour holding a phone**

Dick says “I enjoy taking part in the quiz as I like history and the questions get my brain working. I often get answers right from Mastermind and other TV quiz shows”.

### **Gilmour Jenkins (91-years-old)**

Gilmour enlisted into the Army (Royal Artillery) as part of his National Service in 1950. After serving in the UK, he was discharged as a Gunner in 1952.

He loves watching sport and enjoys woodwork at his home in Devon. He has made lots of bird boxes and takes part in NCP projects, which you can read more about on page 40.

Gilmour says: “The four of us were strangers at first, but after each quiz, names and voices became more familiar. Imagine my surprise when, after a year of taking part, Joan and Dick told us they were about to turn 100! It has been a great pleasure for me to get to know everyone, even though it’s only over the phone.”

It is an absolute pleasure to meet up with these extraordinary Blind Veterans Members every month. Long may it continue!

■ **Want to find out what’s happening in your area? Contact your local Community team.** 🇬🇧



# Forever Summer

Member **Matt MacKinnon-Pattison** shares one of his poems, entitled “Forever Summer”. The poem came to Matt when in a mischievous mood because of the dreadful weather

The summer’s been – the  
summer’s gone  
Can’t say we saw much in it.  
The sun came out one day they say  
And didn’t last a minute.

An Eskimo moved in next door  
It was a rotten shame.  
He said his igloo’s far too cold  
So went back whence he came.

Winter’s much alike each year  
Wind and sleet and rain  
When summer comes  
we hold our breath  
It’s just the same again.

The North wind blows  
twelve months a year  
When will the sun return?  
We’ve dumped our  
swimsuits in the bin  
With lotion to cure the burn.

When we were youngsters,  
summer days  
Were sunny, bright and hot  
We called it: “Summer” ‘cos  
some are days like that  
And some are days that’s not.

For all the Summers we get here  
May lack a lot of sun  
The scenery is lovely and what’s more  
We still have lots of fun

We always have Summer in our hearts  
As up life’s mountain we climb.  
We’re not old people  
who’ve had their day  
We’re young folk living a long time! 🇬🇧

IWEI / ADOBE STOCK





# Member voice

Our Member Engagement team updates you on the latest opportunities and upcoming events

Your voices are important to us, and this month we are focusing on Sport. We would like to hear from Members who actively participate in local sport clubs or represent their chosen sport at county level or higher.

■ Please contact [MET@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:MET@blindveterans.org.uk)

If you would like to try something new, British Blind Sport offers a National Sports activity finder for you to find clubs in your local area. Click the weblink below or contact your Community Teams for further support.

■ Activity Finder: [www.britishblindsport.org.uk/activity-finder](http://www.britishblindsport.org.uk/activity-finder)

Do you want to share your feedback and the views of your peers? Why not

“British Blind Sport offers a National Sports activity finder for you to find clubs in your local area”

attend your local Community Panel? For more information, contact your local community team.

## Member Engagement Events

These military-related events are an opportunity to meet up with other Members.

- 18 October 2023: Victory Over Blindness (Manchester Piccadilly)
- 31 October 2023: RAF Cranwell Pass Out (RAF Cranwell)
- 11 November 2023: Victory Services Club Engagement Event (London)
- 11 November 2023: Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Service (London)
- 12 November 2023: Cenotaph Parade (London)
- 23 November 2023: HMS Temeraire PT Pass Out (Portsmouth)
- 11 February 2024: The Birmingham International Tattoo (Birmingham)

■ To register your interest to attend any of these events, please contact your community teams for further support. 🇬🇧

## Forces Fact

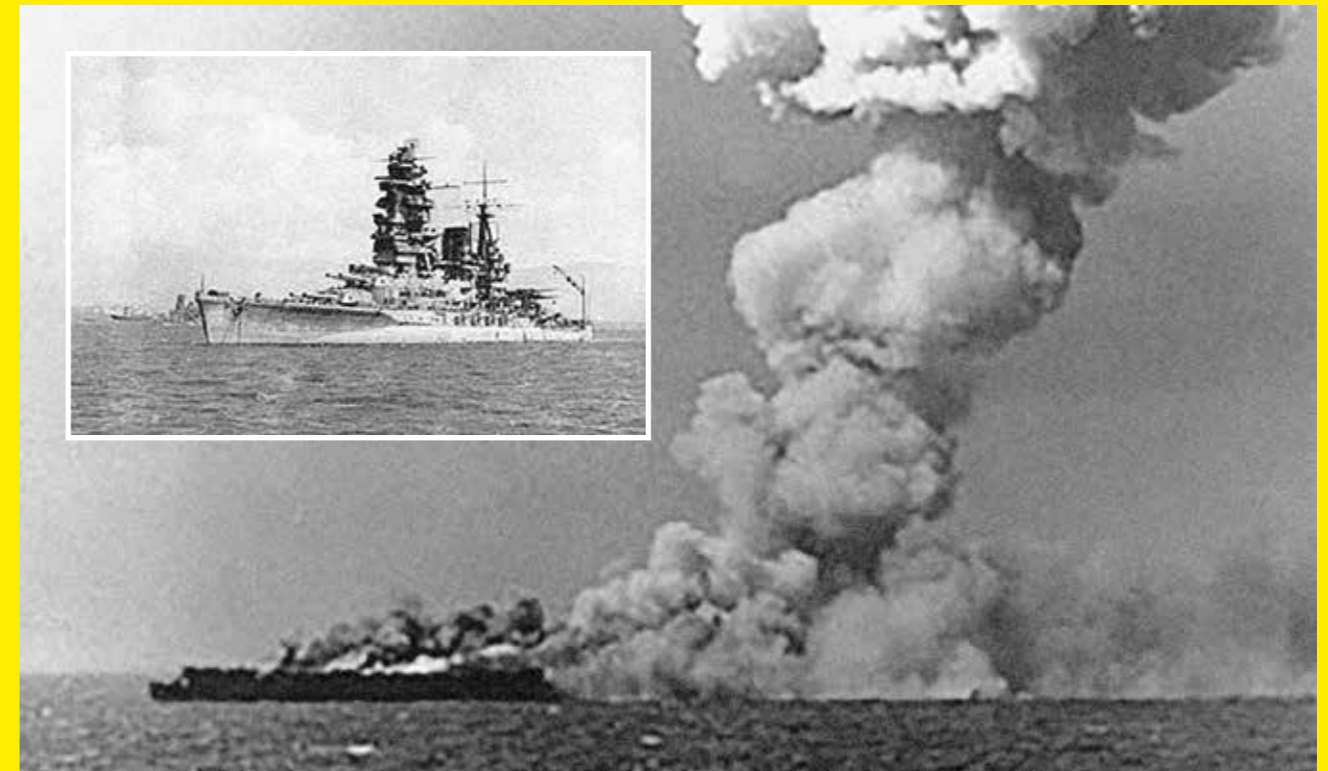
### Military Slang

**No dobie needed** - In 2005, the Ministry of Defence issued soldiers special antimicrobial underwear that can be worn up to three months at a time without needing a change.

■ If you want to share your “Forces Fact” please get in touch via email: [ForcesFact@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:ForcesFact@blindveterans.org.uk) or contact your community support worker who will be able to submit on your behalf.

### This Month in History

**October 17-25, 1944** - The Battle of Leyte Gulf, the largest naval battle in history took place off the Philippine Islands during World War II in the Pacific. The battle involved 216 U.S. warships and 64 Japanese ships and resulted in the destruction of the Japanese Navy including the Japanese Battleship Musashi, one of the largest ever built. The battle crippled the Japanese Fleet, and restored sea power back to the Allies.



**Caption: USS Princeton burning on 24 October 1944, inset: Japanese battleship Nagato and other ships at anchor in Brunei**

PUBLIC DOMAIN / WIKIPEDIA





# National Creative Wellbeing Programme

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

To sign up to or find out more about the following creative activities or hobby circles, simply call **01273 391447**. You can leave a message on our answer machine if you'd just like to request a project pack. All our projects come with VI and reader-friendly

instructions, as well as the option of audio on a USB stick if requested.

## Craft

### Hot Air Balloon Tea Towels: A collaborative project.

Hot air balloons are a symbol of all that is possible. What could be better than a lasting reminder of optimism, hope and a chance to be creative from the comfort of your own home?

All you need to do is decorate the blank balloon template with the variety of craft materials provided. Then send it back to us in the addressed envelope enclosed and we will incorporate your design into a tea towel, creating a piece of artwork designed alongside your fellow blind veterans that you can keep forever and use in your home.

## Gardening Hyacinths

This indoor gardening project will bring colour to your home in the winter months. If you'd like a go at

growing your own beautiful blooms, we will send you everything you need. No garden, equipment or expertise required, just some patience and a little bit of TLC! If you've enjoyed the NCWP gardening projects in the past, why not give the national creative hobby circle a try?

■ Please call **01273 391447** for more information or to request an activity pack to give one of the creative activities a go.

## CREATIVE HOBBY CIRCLES

Facilitated by Blind Veterans UK staff and our Member volunteers, Members with a shared interest meet monthly using Microsoft Teams for a chat to offer ideas, tips and support with ongoing projects.

**Gardening** group for amateur gardeners and Members who have signed up for our gardening projects. A chat group to share the seasons and offer support with VI friendly gardening, no matter the size of your garden, greenhouse or windowsill!

**Knitting**, crochet or weaving - this group is for Members to chat about your latest projects with wool. All abilities welcome, a friendly group to support and inspire!

**Painting** and drawing. A group for

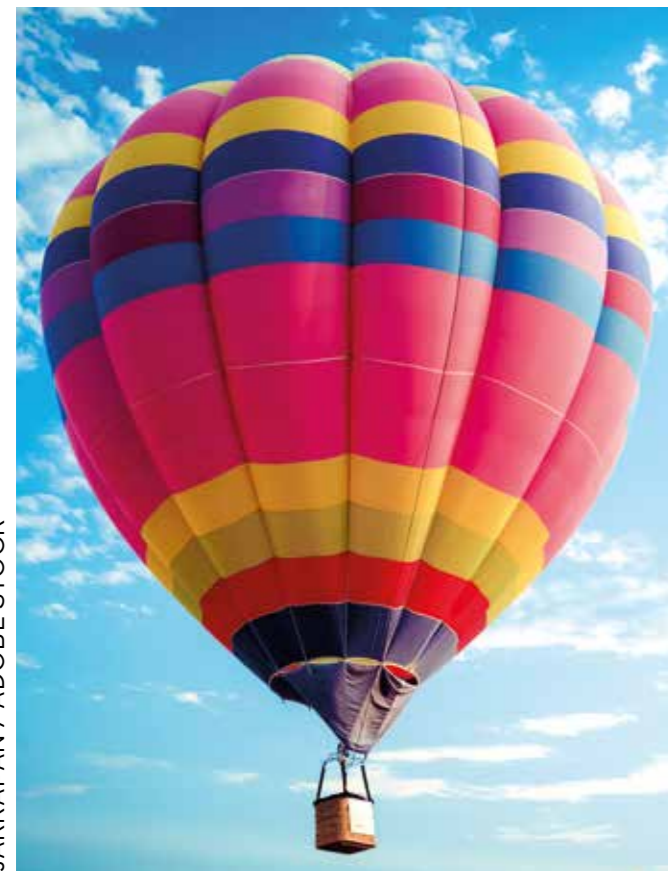


Caption: Hyacinths

artists of all abilities - whether you are just starting out or are an experienced artist, this is the space to chat with other visually impaired artists and exchange ideas, tips and support.

**Woodwork** for those of you interested in woodwork, woodturning, wooden model making and more. This group offers peer support, tips and encouragement with your wooden model projects.

Thank you to those who have completed and returned the surveys we have been sending out in the NCWP packs since May. Please continue to do this for each project you do. Your feedback is very important and we will use it to plan future projects and services. 🍷



JAKKAPAN / ADOBE STOCK

Caption: Hot air balloon



# Crafting connections

**Romy Benshabat** speaks to Member Gilmour who, at 91 years old, customised his latest NCWP project, the Stephenson Rocket model, to create the perfect gift for a friend.

Gilmour has long been accustomed to craft projects. Before losing his sight, he had a passion for woodworking, describing not being able to do it anymore as “a great loss” when he lost his sight. Since getting involved with the National Creative Wellbeing Programme, he found a new passion and has built an array of different models. Gilmour said:

“I love making these models. I've made them all - the Titanic, St. Paul's, the Watermill, the Spitfire. The hand

“The rocket is now with my great friend of 25 years and his wife who are model railway fanatics”

magnifier and light that Blind Veterans UK issued me help guide me through the process of making them. I do find it difficult but I use the diagrams I'm given, follow the steps, number after number, and it's a great help. The ones that take the longest with lots of small parts are my favourites. Especially the Titanic and St. Paul's models.”

For the Stephenson Rocket model project, Gilmour went off-book. Inspired to create the perfect gift for a dear friend, he added some crafty customisations to his model train. He said:

“My friend spotted the project in Review magazine, and asked if I would make it for him. It took me about five weeks in total to complete. It took me so long because I had an idea to add



**Caption: Gilmour with his model train**

to it. I wanted to put the train on rails, which wasn't part of the original kit I was sent. Then I saw a photograph of the rocket and painted the pieces bit by bit to match the yellow and blue, before putting it together. I also added sleepers and polished a block of wood to mount it on. I can't see very well, so certain bits were a struggle, particularly cutting the rails straight, but my friend helped me and I really like how it turned out.”

“The rocket is now with my great friend of 25 years and his wife who are model railway fanatics. He told me the model is now in pride of place alongside his model railway. Sadly, I lost my wife

three years ago, and they really look after me. They live about six miles away and come in to check on me. My friend's wife always checks the models I'm working on to make sure I haven't placed anything upside down before I glue them. They are very dear friends.”

It wasn't long before Gilmour had to ask to borrow the Stephenson Rocket model from his friend, as he was invited to display all his work at a local church hall exhibition set up to raise money for charity. He included all his model projects and a few of his woodworking pieces too. The exhibition raised an impressive £420. 🍷



Listen  
here

NIKKYTOK / ADOBE STOCK

**Caption: Kettles use a lot of electricity**

# Carers Review

A page dedicated to the families and friends who care for our Members, **Stacey Barham** shares the latest opportunities and useful information to support you in your Caring role

## Winter is Coming!

We would like to draw your attention to an article we previously wrote back in August 2021: **“Extra help with energy bills for vulnerable households”**.

This article included advice from the charity National Energy Action and included a number of ways to help you save money in winter but still keep your home warm. Here are some key tips from that article:

- Firstly, **contact your energy supplier** directly if you are struggling to pay your bills.
- **Sign up to the Priority Services registers** and receive extra help from your energy and water suppliers. Each energy, water and network operator maintains its own register so it's worth making sure you are on all of them.
- Check if you are eligible for the **Warm Home Discount Scheme** to get money off your bills. This scheme officially opens in October 2023, but some suppliers open a little earlier so check directly with yours.
- **Take and submit regular meter readings** as this will help you keep an eye on your energy use and make sure to keep your bill accurate.
- **Save energy around the home** where you can. Appliances that use a lot of electricity are tumble dryers, kettles, electric hobs, an older fridge, TV and computers, dishwashers, washing machines and lights. Try using slow cookers, only fill the kettle with the water you need, lower the temperature on your washing machine, and change standard light bulbs to low-energy and LED lighting (both types use considerably less energy).

For impartial, free advice on any of

the above and more, please do get in touch with the friendly team at National Energy Action's Warm and Safe Homes (WASH) Advice service:

**Open Monday-Friday, 10am-12noon**  
**Telephone: 0800 304 7159**  
**Webchat: [www.nea.org.uk/get-help/wash-advice/](http://www.nea.org.uk/get-help/wash-advice/)**

## A slight change...

As the charity moves to its new Rustington Centre, this will be my last Carers Review article as I also move onto pastures new. I would like to say that writing these articles and being able to share the experiences of our carers has definitely been a highlight for me.

However, I'm delighted that **Sharman Collins, Social Worker at Rustington**, will continue to provide the magazine with content relating to carers going forward.

With this in mind, it would be great if you have any suggestions for carers content for Review, to contact Sharman directly by email: [Sharman.collins@blindveterans.org.uk](mailto:Sharman.collins@blindveterans.org.uk)





# A celebration of a life's work

At the age of 94, renowned artist and Member **Philip Sutton RA** has had a triumphant summer displaying artwork from his 70-year career. Philip talks to William Witt about his time in National Service, the highlights from his career in art, and reflects on painting after sight loss

Not only did Philip exhibit a collection of oil paintings, watercolours and ceramics from his 70-year career this summer, but he also took part in the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition.

Philip entered the RAF for National Service in 1946. A couple of years later, he was sent out to Berlin with Transport Command where he spent the next year servicing the airplanes that were flying fuel, food and water into the city during the Berlin Airlift.

**“I’ve been incredibly impressed with Blind Veterans UK, they’ve been ever so helpful”**

He says: “The planes came in every three or four minutes, unloaded their cargo, then went back to the British sector to load up again. It was incredible.”

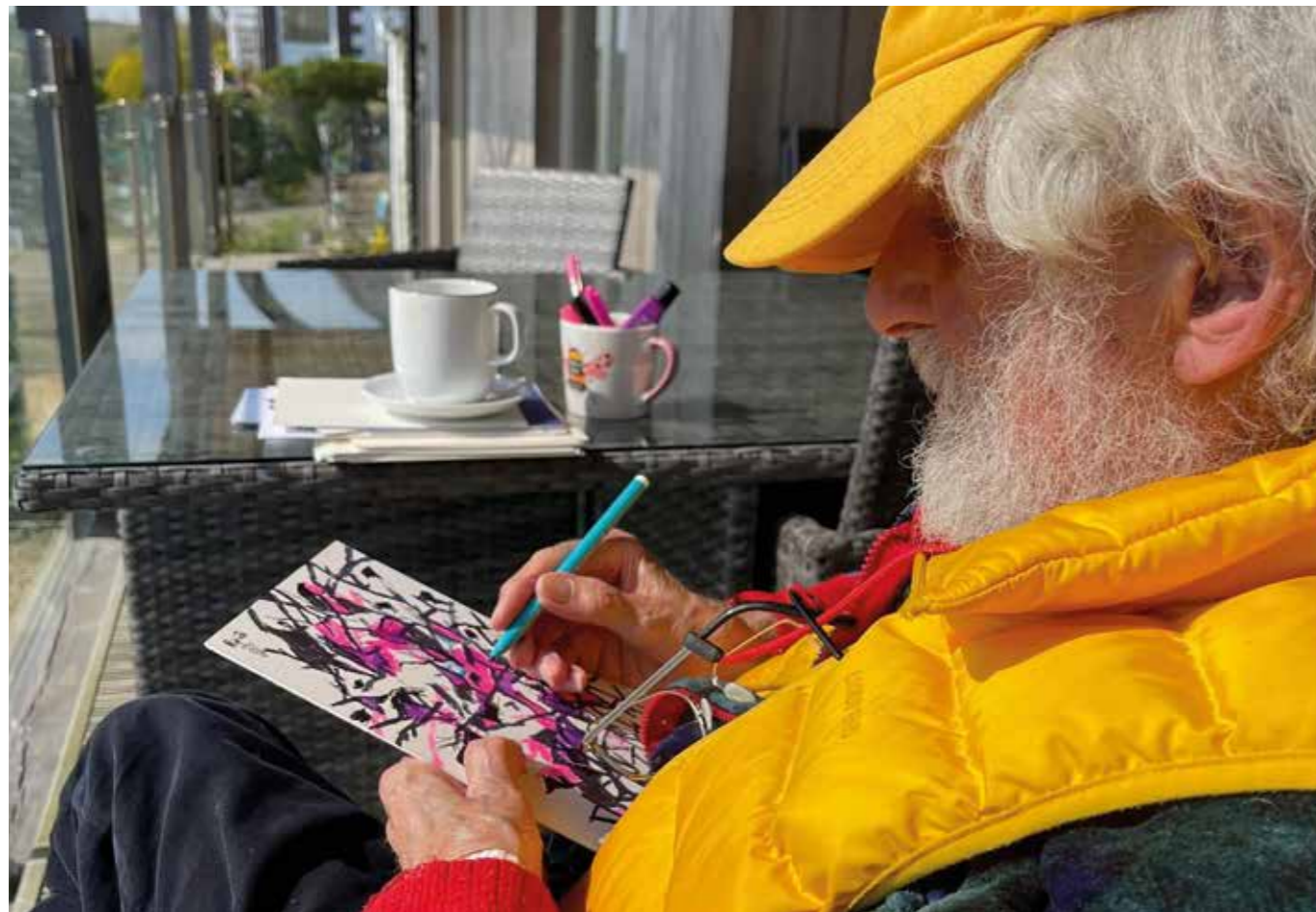
Following his National Service, he entered the Slade School of Fine Art and went on to do fellowships in France, Italy and Spain. He returned to the Slade School to teach before hosting a series of solo exhibitions throughout the UK. Philip then went on to travel the world and paint in places including Australia, Fiji, Ireland and Crete.

In 1986 he received a commission from London Transport to create a London Underground poster for Soho and in 1987, he designed a new →



**Caption: Top, Philip looking out to sea, bottom, Philip with his painting**





**Caption: Philip drawing**

set of stamps for the Post Office. The following year, he was elected a Royal Academician.

At the age of 89, Philip began to lose his sight to glaucoma and macular degeneration. He says: "It's been a gradual decline but its 99% gone now. As a painter, it was a bit of a shock as I had spent my whole life studying how things look."

In 2022 he found out about Blind Veterans UK and started receiving our support.

He says: "I've been incredibly impressed with Blind Veterans UK, they've been ever so helpful. They've given me all sorts of kit to make living independently easier.

"They've given me things like lights that go on the top of my easel so I can see what I'm painting, and a phone with big number buttons so I can call my family. They've even given me a machine so I can listen to talking books. I've had a lifelong love of literature so these talking books are an absolute godsend." 🎧



# Quiz time

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

1. Where in the body is the thyroid gland?
2. The British Mark I tank was first used in what war?
3. Which river separates Wales from England?
4. Which way does the King face on stamps?
5. In what sport can you get a 'duck'?
6. In what century was the American Revolutionary War?
7. What supermarket started as a grocery store in Drury Lane?
8. What ice cream shares its name with a large champagne bottle?
9. In 1985, Robert Ballard became the first person to do what?  
a) Cross the Sahara on foot  
b) Discover the wreck of the titanic  
c) Walk in space
10. What animal breed is a Texas Longhorn?

Answers on Page 55



IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM / PUBLIC DOMAIN

**Caption: British Mark I tank**





# Family news

**Marjorie Bennett** who celebrates her 101st birthday on 2 November 2023.

**Arnold Bradbury** who celebrates his 100th birthday on 20 October 2023.

**Olwen Cantlay** who celebrates her 101st birthday on 31 October 2023.

**Joseph Covell** who celebrates his 101st birthday on 16 October 2023.

**James Finnigan** who celebrates his 101st birthday on 4 October 2023.

**Kenneth Guest** who celebrates his 101st birthday on 28 October 2023.

**John Haddock** who celebrates his 101st birthday on 16 October 2023.

**Richard Northam** who celebrates his 101st birthday on 24 October 2023.

**Ronald Roberts** who celebrates his 102nd birthday on 30 October 2023.

**Doreen Scott** who celebrates her 102nd birthday on 20 October 2023.

**Freda Whittaker** who celebrates her 101st birthday on 16 October 2023.

## Condolences

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

**Maud Anderson** who died on 22 November 2022. She was the wife of Thomas Anderson.

**Rosemary Bell** who died on 1 July 2023. She was the wife of George Bell.

**Molly Claridge** who died on 1 August 2023. She was the wife of Richard Claridge

**Pat Fisher** who died on 1 August 2023. She was the wife of Jeffery Fisher.



# 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

**Pamela Banks** of Plymouth died on 26 August 2023 aged 92. She served as an S.A.C. in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

**John Louis Barnet** of Matlock, Derbyshire died on 11 August 2023 aged 86. He served as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery.

**David Britton** of Redcar, Cleveland died on 9 August 2023 aged 86. He served as a Private in the Royal Army Service Corps.

**Thomas Buchanan** of Glenrothes, Fife died on 19 August 2023 aged 88. He served as a Sergeant in the Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment).

**Irene Causer** of Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancashire died on 15 August 2023 aged 100. She served as a Leading Wren in the Women's Royal Naval Service.

**Peter George Cross** of Banbury, Oxfordshire died on 5 August 2023 aged 88. He served as a Private in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

**Derek Cross** of Walsall died on 1 August 2023 aged 90. He served as an A.C. 1 in the Royal Air Force.

**Peter Anthony Darwell-Taylor** of Leatherhead, Surrey died on 5 July 2023 aged 88. He served as a Gunner in the Royal Artillery.

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



**Thomas Donovan** of Bournemouth died on 13 August 2023 aged 100. He served as a Captain in the Merchant Navy.

**Paul Raymond Egan** of Wallasey, Merseyside died on 1 August 2023 aged 69. He served as a Petty Officer in the Royal Navy.

**Muriel Dorothea Elhen** of Liverpool died on 4 August 2023 aged 101. She served as an Aircraftwoman in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force.

**Michael Henry Elphick** of Filey, North Yorkshire died on 12 August 2023 aged 93. He served as a Flying Officer in the Royal Air Force.

**Terence Reeves Essery** of Stoke-on-Trent died on 26 August 2023 aged 90. He served as a Corporal in the Royal Army Service Corps.

**Joseph Etherington** of Preston died on 1 August 2023 aged 88. He served as a Private in the Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire).

**Joan Phyllis Evans** of Retford, Nottinghamshire died on 3 August 2023 aged 95. She served as a Private in the Women's Auxiliary Corps.

**Ronald Fieldhouse** of Sheffield died on 1 August 2023 aged 99. He served as an Able Seaman in the Royal Navy.

**Irene George** of Widnes, Cheshire died on 1 August 2023 aged 97. She served as a Private in the Auxiliary Territorial Service.

**John Dennis Ham** of Chester died on 1 August 2023 aged 97. He served as an Ordinary Seaman in the Royal Navy.

**Stanley Hawkins** of Epsom, Surrey died on 5 August 2023 aged 96. He served as a Signaller in the Royal Signals.

**Brian Heaton** of Sherborne, Dorset died on 14 August 2023 aged 90. He served as a Sergeant in the Royal Artillery.

**Harold Hill** of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey died on 21 August 2023 aged 97. He served as a Driver in the Royal Army Service Corps.

**Peter Huddleston** of Horsham, West Sussex died on 8 August 2023 aged 98. He served as a Sergeant in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

**Ivor Sidney Jennings** of Basildon, Essex died on 1 August 2023 aged 98. He served as a Driver in the Royal Scots Fusiliers.

**Sheila Joan Kay** of Blackpool died on 19 August 2023 aged 87. She served as a Private in the Women's Royal Army Corps.

**Patrick Michael Knibbs** of Buckingham died on 4 August 2023 aged 85. He served as a Private in the Somerset Light Infantry (Prince Albert's).

**Arthur Lake** of Reading died on 1 August 2023 aged 99. He served in the Royal Engineers.

**Kenneth Morrison Lynn** of Middlesbrough, Cleveland died on 29 July 2023 aged 92. He served as a Flying Officer in the Royal Air Force.

**Frank Menniss** of Bexleyheath, Kent died on 27 August 2023 aged 90. He served as a Private in the Royal Army Pay Corps.

**Ralph Pacitti** of Weymouth, Dorset died on 22 August 2023 aged 88. He served as a Junior Technician in the Royal Air Force.

**Michael Pittem** of Rugby, Warwickshire died on 16 August 2023 aged 88. He served as a Driver in the Royal Army Service Corps.

**Elizabeth Mary Ray** of Hove, East Sussex died on 1 July 2023 aged 97. She served as a Wren in the Women's Royal Naval Service.

**Peter Roach** of Skegness, Lincolnshire died on 3 August 2023 aged 88. He served as a Private in the Midland Brigade.

**Leslie Robinson** of Nottingham died on 19 August 2023 aged 94. He served in the Royal Artillery.

**Stella Patricia Savage** of Lichfield, Staffordshire died on 22 August 2023 aged 104. She served as a Private in the Auxiliary Territorial Service.

**Eric Straw** of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire died on 1 August 2023 aged 95. He served as a Private in the Royal Army Medical Corps.

**Francis Treacy** of Maidenhead, Berkshire died on 30 July 2023 aged 90. He served in the Royal Air Force.



**Edward Trott** of Sheffield died on 7 August 2023 aged 87. He served as a Lance Corporal in the Royal Signals.

**Rebecca Urwin-Smith** of Rhos on Sea, Conwy died on 15 August 2023 aged 102. She served as a Private in the Auxiliary Territorial Service.

**Colin Waters** of York, North Yorkshire died on 5 January 2023 aged 91. He served as an S.A.C. in the Royal Air Force.

**Dennis Bernard Wood** of Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset died on 26 August 2023 aged 99. He served as a Flight Sergeant in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

**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)**



AGENTURFOTOGRAFIN / ADOBE STOCK



## Contact details

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

**Member Support Hub (MeSH):**  
**01273 391 447**

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

### A different format?

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

**Quiz answers - from page 48** 1. The neck 2. World War I 3. The River Wye 4. Left 5. Cricket 6. 18 century 7. Sainsbury's 8. Magnum 9. Discover the wreck of the Titanic 10. Cattle

**Rustington Centre: 01903 945 300**

**Llandudno Centre: 01492 868 700**

**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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Raffle closes 15th December. Draw takes place 22nd December

No under 18 allowed to enter. No prizes will be paid to anyone under 18 years of age. Full terms and conditions apply, please visit [raffle.blindveterans.org.uk/rules](https://raffle.blindveterans.org.uk/rules) for more details.

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