Simon was 28 when he was shot in the head while saving the lives of six comrades in Basra, southern Iraq. He survived, but the damage to his face was catastrophic. His heroic act in battle led to a long, difficult recovery and it took many pioneering operations to rebuild his face.

Simon came to us for support and training, then went on to college to study mechanics and passed his education certificate at the highest level. Now he’s thriving. As well as living in his own home and travelling independently, he’s in demand as a motivational speaker and has spoken to the English football and rugby teams. Simon has also trained as a teacher, and works with young offenders and disaffected children. And last year he was voted GQ magazine’s man of the year.
With lost sight, even familiar places can seem unknown and intimidating. Relearning everyday tasks, like getting around using a white cane, can be huge obstacles. Overcoming them gives our members a great sense of achievement. But this is just the beginning.

We help blind veterans live full lives with sight loss. Just last year we welcomed hundreds of new members to Blind Veterans UK. We work with older veterans whose sight is growing worse, and younger people who have been blinded in action. The need for our services is growing.

Whether our members have been blinded on the battlefield or lose their sight later in life, the effects are the same. They feel isolated and helpless, and often depressed.

We help blind veterans live full lives with sight loss. Just last year we welcomed hundreds of new members to Blind Veterans UK. We work with older veterans whose sight is growing worse, and younger people who have been blinded in action. The need for our services is growing.

We're a charity, and we need your help to support our members throughout their lives.

Support us www.blindveterans.org.uk/donate
Call our donation line if you'd like to help 0300 111 2233

Blind Veterans UK was founded as St Dunstan’s in 1915 to help the Service men and women left blinded and dependent by the First World War. Our aim has always been to help our members live as independently as they can by giving them the confidence and skills for life.

With lost sight, even familiar places can seem unknown and intimidating. Relearning everyday tasks, like getting around using a white cane, can be huge obstacles. Overcoming them gives our members a great sense of achievement. But this is just the beginning.

We help with computer-aided communications, devices for safer cooking, new sports and physical activities, and creativity in our art and craft workshops. With basic techniques and new skills and friends, our members rebuild their self-esteem. Our specialists assess everyone who comes to us and develop a support programme for their changing needs.

Harry has also been exploring the other opportunities available at our centres. As well as creative writing and cookery, he’s also rediscovered cycling (on a tandem), and has even made a tandem parachute jump with the Red Devils as part of the Blind Veterans UK challenge.

Our one-week training course worked wonders:
“I can keep in touch with my son, I can do my quizzes, I can write letters and I can go on the internet. It’s changed my life in a way. It’s great. I could do with a 10-day week, me!”

“Helping veterans keep their independence when they’ve lost their sight”

Harry Beevers, Blind Veterans UK member

“Helping veterans keep their independence when they’ve lost their sight”

Everything changed for Harry Beevers in 2001 when he joined Blind Veterans UK, then St Dunstan’s. Harry had served in East Africa, Somalia and Mogadishu with a light infantry battalion, and was declared blind after leaving the army in 1955. When he first visited us, his main goal was to learn computing to keep in touch with his son in America and find material for his quizzes (ex-history teacher Harry is a bit of a quiz-master, and writes our monthly magazine quizzes).

They’ve given so much for all of us. Now blind veterans need your help.

Our veterans have put their lives on the line to protect our country and others. Thankfully, many come home safely, but some lose their sight and their independence. For people who’ve risked everything to protect our freedom, this is tough to face.

Our one-week training course worked wonders:
“I can keep in touch with my son, I can do my quizzes, I can write letters and I can go on the internet. It’s changed my life in a way. It’s great. I could do with a 10-day week, me!”

“Helping veterans keep their independence when they’ve lost their sight”

Harry Beevers, Blind Veterans UK member

Our veterans have put their lives on the line to protect our country and others. Thankfully, many come home safely, but some lose their sight and their independence. For people who’ve risked everything to protect our freedom, this is tough to face.

Whether our members have been blinded on the battlefield or lose their sight later in life, the effects are the same. They feel isolated and helpless, and often depressed.

We help blind veterans live full lives with sight loss. Just last year we welcomed hundreds of new members to Blind Veterans UK. We work with older veterans whose sight is growing worse, and younger people who have been blinded in action. The need for our services is growing.

We're a charity, and we need your help to support our members throughout their lives.

Support us www.blindveterans.org.uk/donate
Call our donation line if you’d like to help 0300 111 2233

Blind Veterans UK was founded as St Dunstan’s in 1915 to help the Service men and women left blinded and dependent by the First World War. Our aim has always been to help our members live as independently as they can by giving them the confidence and skills for life.

With lost sight, even familiar places can seem unknown and intimidating. Relearning everyday tasks, like getting around using a white cane, can be huge obstacles. Overcoming them gives our members a great sense of achievement. But this is just the beginning.

We help with computer-aided communications, devices for safer cooking, new sports and physical activities, and creativity in our art and craft workshops. With basic techniques and new skills and friends, our members rebuild their self-esteem. Our specialists assess everyone who comes to us and develop a support programme for their changing needs.

Our one-week training course worked wonders:
“I can keep in touch with my son, I can do my quizzes, I can write letters and I can go on the internet. It’s changed my life in a way. It’s great. I could do with a 10-day week, me!”

Harry has also been exploring the other opportunities available at our centres. As well as creative writing and cookery, he’s also rediscovered cycling (on a tandem), and has even made a tandem parachute jump with the Red Devils as part of the Blind Veterans UK challenge.

“Helping veterans keep their independence when they’ve lost their sight”

Harry Beevers, Blind Veterans UK member

Our one-week training course worked wonders:
“I can keep in touch with my son, I can do my quizzes, I can write letters and I can go on the internet. It’s changed my life in a way. It’s great. I could do with a 10-day week, me!”

Harry has also been exploring the other opportunities available at our centres. As well as creative writing and cookery, he’s also rediscovered cycling (on a tandem), and has even made a tandem parachute jump with the Red Devils as part of the Blind Veterans UK challenge.