



Veterans & Families – Listening Project

email: veteransnfamilies@yahoo.com

www.vflp.org.uk



Welcome to our March Newsletter

Wow... What a roller-coaster time we're having of it at the moment!!

Here's some more exciting news Darren Tate the Founder of Suitability is our guest speaker on

Tuesday 9th March at 7:00 pm

on zoom. Come and join us to hear more from Darren and his brilliant CIC – Suitability. Email

veteransnfamilies@yahoo.com

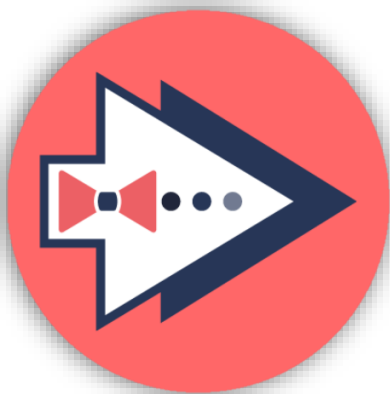
for your ZOOM link before 5:00pm Monday 8th March.

Suitability



Back in 2019 Darren was approached by a participant who was on an employability programme within the North East with a request as he'd gained an interview. He had never had a job or an interview in the past and didn't have any funds or any suitable interview attire. Darren knew of a fantastic service called Smartworks for women but there wasn't anything for men.

So he decided to do something about it and donated his own suit to the gentleman and seeing the difference it made was huge. As a result of this he was more confident and got the job.



Suitability uses donated clothing from some amazing people as well as businesses to support them and be sustainable, and they're ever-growing supporting men with access to free interview clothing helping them to not only look good but feel confident when attending their interviews.





**Other Well-Being group dates:
Friday 19th & 26th March at 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm**

**...IT'S TIME FOR...
HOT TOPICS.
So, grab a snack & come-on BACK**

NEWS UPDATE

We hope that you're keeping well and feeling a little more positive following the roadmap from the government this week

However unfortunately the government announcement does mean there will be NO Surrey Heath Show this year...



Stay connected with your local HIVE



The RAF HIVE Service provides a comprehensive information and referral service to the Armed Forces community, including Service Personnel, their families, veterans and civilians on Station.

HIVE can support you with information on relocating, local station facilities, schooling, housing, deployment support, healthcare facilities and your local area.

The RAF HIVE Service provision during COVID-19 pandemic has been adapting to new working patterns, with added challenges of HIVE Information Officers (HIOs) working from home.

The RAF HIVE Service continues to meet the demands of enquiries and offer much needed support to the Service community. This ensures that information needs are identified, and effectively delivered. The Service has conducted an evaluation of delivery methods, which has enhanced our digital platforms and widened accessibility and engagement.

With RAF HIVE being one of the primary means to disseminate information, HIVE Information Officers pushed out lockdown activities and resources, for adults and children. These ranged from virtual exercise classes, quizzes, educational training, and an array of wellbeing materials and welfare services. The RAF HIVE Service will continue to provide relevant and timely information during the lockdown in 2021.

With HIVE Offices closed, we modified our arrivals and deployment materials online. This is a new system whereby we email our customers an introduction, slide attachments, and offer an additional support of a Skype/Teams/phone call to cover further information. To continue engagement and keep the Service communities fully informed on local Stations, we introduced Drop-In/Live Chat forums. This was promoted via online Station HIVE platforms to reach the wider, dispersed Service community.

The HIVE Management Team along with all HIOs have continued to provide professional and timely delivery to disseminate information covering COVID-19 through our social media platforms, which has been fundamental in the communication and information to the Service community. The RAF HIVE Service is keen to support you whenever, wherever.

HIVE

information

Supporting the Service Community

RAF HIVE Management Team

RAF HIVE You ask, we answer





What Veterans UK does

We provide free support for Veterans and their Families, Including a helpline, Veterans' Welfare Service and injury / Bereavement compensation scheme payments.

Veterans UK is part of the Ministry of Defence

Email: veterans-uk@mod.gov.uk

Freephone (UK only): 0808 1914 2 18

Telephone (overseas): +44 1253 866 043

Normal Service 10.00 am to 3.00 pm Monday to Friday

For more information visit their website:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/veterans-uk



SUPPORT FOR TARP TEST

■ VETERAN John Watson-Allison has launched the "Under a Tarp" challenge to highlight the issues facing homeless people during the winter months.

The initiative runs until the end of March and requires participants to build their own outdoor tarpaulin shelters and then spend the night in the structure while sleeping on a cardboard bed.

And the former warrant officer, who served in the Intelligence Corps and Royal Engineers during a 24-year Army career, is calling on serving and ex-personnel to showcase their shelter building skills and spread the message.

"We often talk about helping the homeless, but this is a truly immersive experience," Watson-Allison said. "It's about moving beyond our comfort zones to understand what it's really like to be sleeping rough on the streets."

Participants are urged to set up a Just Giving page and raise money for their chosen homeless charities, while charting their experience on social media using **#UnderaTarpChallenge**

For details visit underatarp.co.uk



EX-RESERVIST JAILED

■ A FORMER soldier has been jailed for four years for terrorism offences after emailing sensitive military information to several major international organisations.

Matthew Conroy, 25, from Shepherd's Bush in west London, sent six confidential Army documents that had the potential to be used for "terrorist intent".

Conroy was discharged from the Army in early 2020 for poor performance during initial training. He had joined from the Reserves, where he served with the Adjutant General's Corps attached to The Royal Lancers.

Commander Richard Smith, head of the Metropolitan Police's Counter Terrorism Command, said: "There is no doubt the data Conroy emailed out had the potential to put the safety and security of military personnel at increased risk.

"Today's sentence should make it clear there are very serious consequences for anyone who chooses to do this sort of thing."



LONDON
NORTH
DUXFORD
CHURCHILL WAR ROOMS
HMS BELFAST

HELP TELL THE STORIES THAT DESERVE TO BE HEARD

We all have a connection to conflict.
Help IWM continue to give a voice to
the many lives impacted by war.

Be part of it.
Enjoy free entry to all our
branches and much more.

BECOME AN IWM MEMBER
IWM.ORG.UK/MEMBERSHIP

IWM IS A CHARITY

PETE

"I'm fascinated by
Second World War
aviation."



REF: www.iwm.org.uk/membership



THE NOT FORGOTTEN

British War Films – Crossword

All of the answers this week are related to British War Films.

Click the first letter of the sequence to begin typing – if you get the answer right, the word will turn green. Get it wrong, and it turns red.

Where two different words start in the same square, you might need to start typing on the second or third square to make sure you type in the correct direction.

The questions with an ellipsis (...) indicate a fill-in-the-blanks question.

Once you've finished the crossword, you'll get a congratulatory message at the end!

**Click this link for
direct access**

Visit: www.thenotforgotten.org/british-war-films-crossword



THE NOT FORGOTTEN



British War Films – Crossword

1. The 2019 film, 1917 is set after the German retreat to the '... Line' {9}
2. 1955 film based on and named after the RAF's 617 Squadron. 'THE...' {3,7}
3. 1974 film starring Michael Caine and Sean Connery. 'A ... TOO FAR' {6}
4. 1962 film set in the Ottoman Empire during World War I. '... OF ARABIA' {8}
5. 2017 film which looks at the evacuation from three perspectives land, air, and sea. {7}
6. 1964 film depicting the Battle of Rorke's Drift, during the AngloZulu war. {4}
7. 1957 film based on the construction of the Burma Railway during World War II.
'BRIDGE ON THE RIVER...' {4}
8. 1968 film set during World War II, starring Richard Burton and Clint Eastwood.
'WHERE...' {6, 4}

Please note V&F-LP have sourced the above from the
www.thenotforgotten.org website



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@VnF_LP



V&F-LP is an independent member of ASDIC.
The association of Ex-Service Drop-in Centres,
Linking Veterans' Drop-ins together across the
United Kingdom.



Book Chats

We're almost there!!! What to
read in Lockdown 2021...

Well folks, this is it... Looks like we're turning to the last pages of THE Lockdown Reading Challenge ... or maybe not. As the feedback we've had has been really good, so we'll be continuing to highlight books in our (think we'll be renaming it to THE Breakout Reading Challenge 2021 sounds good – hey!!!) #TBRC2021 from time to time. Thank you, and we hope that everyone has had a great time so far—whether or not you're on track to meet your goal. If you haven't heard about it, don't worry – you have now!!! #TBRC2021 is a year-long reading challenge, dedicated to reading more books by authors that you've never considered, or even heard of.

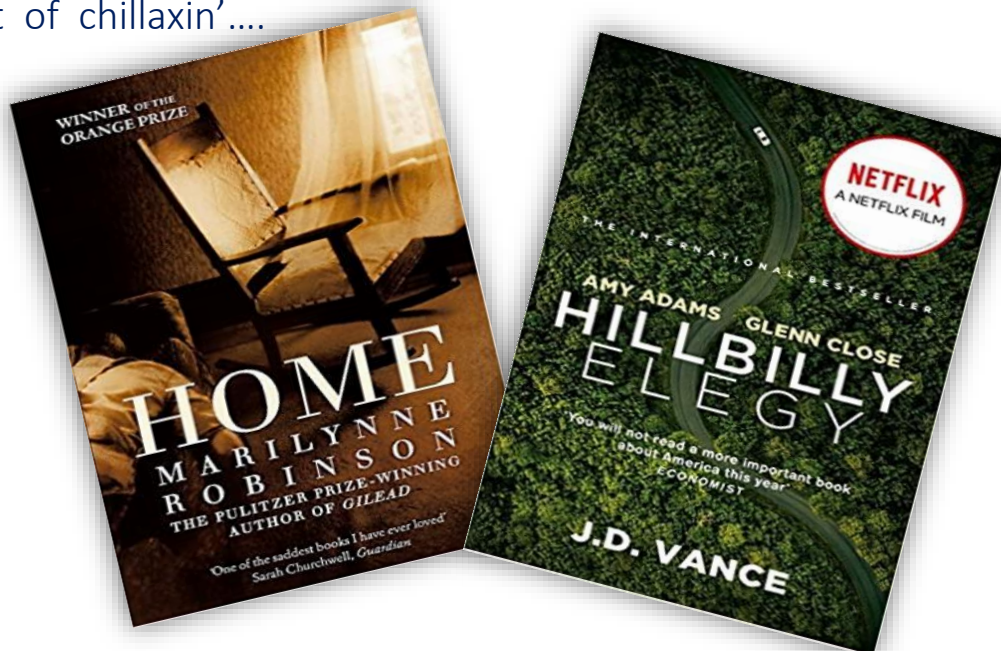
It's been extremely fulfilling to see all of your progress in #TLBC2021 so far, no matter how many books on home-life you've picked-up, put-down. The fact that you've been actively reading books by other authors—whether you liked reading or

not—is so meaningful, and we're all so grateful for your support over the past months.

Keep an eye out for the next ZOOM link-up... But for now, let's talk about February's challenge theme! This month, the #TLBC2021 team from V&F-LP have selected two books to feature in this month's theme (which is optional, in case you want a harder challenge!), and this month, the theme is...

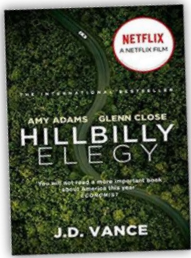
....Home - Life....

We have had feedback on two books this month from team #TBRC2021 (if you want to be on the #TBRC2021 team, drop us your book review) 'Home-Life' something that a lot of us have experience of. We challenge you to read books about 'Home-Life' that explore reading in its many forms—whether it's just for Lockdown or our getting ready to Break-free moment, or as a result of chillaxin'....



#TBRC2021 have picked HOME by MARILYNNE ROBINSON and HILLBILLY ELEGY by J. D. VANCE

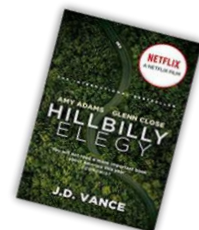
HILLBILLY ELEGY by J. D. VANCE



Sandy: I've visited the US several times and have got to know some of the real America as well as tourist areas. I also enjoy reading on American politics and social history. This is a very interesting book and is well written. Vance describes his early years in a way that epitomises the hillbilly mentality and the real social problems experienced, and to some extent self-generated. You have to admire the way that he has persevered with a goal to give himself a better life despite the many obstacles he has to overcome. 9 | 10

J.D.: WOW... If I ever connected with a book, this was it. Down to earth, and put in a way that I actually understood where J.D. was coming from, it was easy to read. For me it felt that he was writing about my own life, even though I'm not from Kentucky. Being Northern I've seen a lot of similarities between our area and the authors... Really good and interesting book. 10 for me

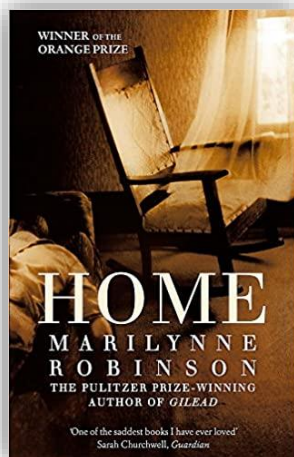
Pat: It is all too easy to dismiss the views of both Trump voters and Brexit voters as uneducated. The lesson that many politicians have got to learn is understanding (as well as humility but hey-ho.... That's another story). I have thought about this dilemma a lot and was recommended this book by an American friend - when I don't understand something my default is to read about it rather than just relying on soundbites on the TV!!



The book wasn't quite what I expected and I was delighted. I expected a more formal study but I got a very personal account of being raised in white, working class America and making it good. As the start of the book I was full of questions and many of them were answered as JD's story progressed. Most of the book is very personal but I found the most fascinating parts when he discusses the view, within America, of the white working class and the disadvantages that they deal with.

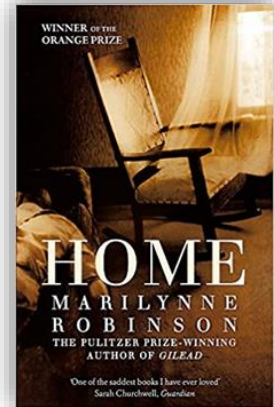
That's a 10 | 10 for me.

HOME by MARILYNNE ROBINSON



Jay. I liked the fact that new characters were gradually introduced so that you weren't grappling from the outset trying to remember who's who... Making this a slow read to get into. What I found frustrating was there was for me too much dialogue and not enough happening. I wanted to know more about family dynamics and why certain people were the way they were – what made them behave the way they did. This was never mentioned, which was disappointing. 6 | 10

Carol: Deep thoughtful read, but way too slow, long and drawn out for me. Good if you have heaps of time on your hands, try stuffing some mushrooms.... 4 | 10



Dai: Sorry this book didn't do it for me at all. In my opinion it is so overwritten, it felt pretentious and that is always off putting. The story is also really boring there was nothing to keep me engaged and make me want to keep reading, I don't think all families from a religious background act like this. This book has so many great reviews so I appreciate this is likely just a personal taste issue, but definitely not a book for me. Unlike Jack - is it too early to have a drink.... I need it after reading this book. Zero.

Well we have quite a good selection of feedback on this month's #TLBC2021. By quite a few points, this month's winner is

...HILLBILLY ELEGY by J. D. VANCE...

Well-done and thank you to #TBRC2021 team for your entertaining reviews. Remember, you too can share your book reviews with us – that's what #TBRC2021 is all about.



There are estimated to be around 2.6 million veterans living in the UK. Having served in the Armed Forces and dedicated their lives to the safety of the nation, they are men and women who have trained explicitly for the demands of military life in our nation's unfailing defence.

Unlike colleagues who make plans for retirement, unexpected discharge from service life due to disability is likely to mean that these individuals are less prepared for a new life outside the military. And, according to the Career Transition

Partnership annual statistics, veterans are significantly less likely to have a degree than non-veteran counterparts, which could leave them at a disadvantage in the jobs market.

Our Solution – The UK's First Disabled Veterans' Scholarships Fund

The Disabled Veterans' Scholarships Fund (DVSF) has been tailored to fully support disabled veterans, injured in or due to service, as they transition to civilian life. It provides



a free OU education and a wraparound support service. The large majority of veterans make a successful move out of the military, however, for those who do struggle this Fund offers a lifeline.

Finding a fulfilling, sustainable job is an experience that 44% of disabled veterans find difficult according to the Deloitte report *Veterans Work: Moving On*. They identify obstacles such as: matching their existing skill-set to civilian roles, having insufficient or unrecognisable qualifications, and writing CVs or job applications. The careers support offered by DVSF aims to address these difficulties so that veterans are able to put their considerable, valuable skills to use in the workplace.

The OU is well-placed to deliver this programme. Currently over 31,000 of our students have a registered disability. Our distance learning is sent straight into students' homes which is ideal for anyone with health issues. We also enhance our

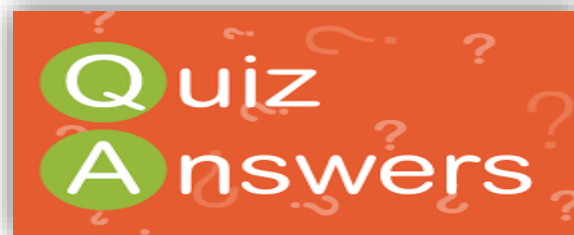


flexible learning with specialist equipment and assistance such as alternative format study materials.

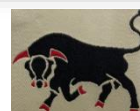
Eligibility Criteria

- Eligible applicants' resident in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland may apply for a bursary of £3,000 for each 60 credits of OU study, up to £18,000 for up to 360 credits (for a full undergraduate degree).
- The applicant would have to provide proof of disability, sustained in or due to service life.
- The applicant must intend to study at a minimum of 25% intensity (at least 30 credits per academic year).

For further information visit their website: www.giving.open.ac.uk/DVSF



Desert Rat – 7th Armoured Brigade



11 Light Brigade TRF



2ND MEDICAL BRIGADE MEDICS BRITISH ARMY 2 MED BDE OLIVE BLACK TRF


**Royal Electrical &
 Mechanical Engineers**


**Royal Army
 Chaplains Dept.**


**Reconnaissance
 Corps**




3 Regiment Army Air Corps TRF




48th (South Midland) Division was an infantry division of the British Army. Part of the Territorial Force (TF) and raised in 1908



80th Infantry (Reserve) Division was an infantry division of the British Army formed at the beginning of 1943, during the Second World War


**Army Dental
 Corps**


Infantry


**Army Catering
 Corps**


**Army Physical
 Training Corps**



The 6th Anti-Aircraft Division (6th AA Division) was an air defence formation created within Anti-Aircraft Command of Britain's Territorial Army just before the Second World War. It defended the Thames Estuary and the approaches to London during the Battle of Britain and the Blitz.



The Dorset County Division was formed on 24 February 1941



The Lincolnshire County Division was a short-lived formation of the British Army, formed in World War II on 24 February 1941



The Hampshire County Division was a formation of the British Army, raised in World War II and originally formed on 28th February 1941



WRNS Radio Operator (Wings & Lightning Flash) Trade



Marine Engineering (Missile Prop Flash)+ 1 Star + ME Trade



Royal Army Veterinary Corps combat badge



Gurkha Nepal Flash - Tactical Recognition



1st Aviation Brigade



British Army Air Corps (AAC) TRF (Tactical Recognition Flash)



TACTICAL RECOGNITION FLASH BADGE ROYAL AIR FORCE 3 SQN SQUADRON
DESERT BUFF RAF TRF BADGE

Congratulations if you got them all right.





Lots to remember.... We're still on **ZOOM** for the time being every 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm, and that we are planning to hopefully re-open with limited number of attendees soon.

Every 2nd Monday of the month

10:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Please note that we have move venues

**High Cross Church (HCC), Knoll Road, Camberley,
Surrey; GU15 3SY**

You are most welcome to join us at either - ZOOM link
or at the High Cross Church
(when we're open)by emailing us:

veteransnfamilies@yahoo.com

To save any upset or distress please **do not** arrive at the High Cross Church without an invitation from us, we are operating in this way for everyone's safety during these unprecedented times. Thank you for all your understanding & support.



★ Team V&F-LP are looking forward to
seeing you
Soon
Have FUN, stay SAFE

★ All information correct at the time of going to press & PDF
Veterans & Families-Listening Project (V&F-LP)
does not endorse any products, quizzes or service(s) advertised