



VIC Newsletter

We will remember them

MEMBERS of VIC will be attending services all over East Lancashire to pay their respects for Remembrance Day.

They will be join veterans, serving personnel, cadets, civic dignitaries and members of the public at a series of commemorative services from the Ribble Valley and Pendle to all over Rossendale and Rochdale.

Remembrance Day is also known as Poppy Day or Armistice Day and is an international memorial day which has been observed in Commonwealth countries since the end of the First World War to remember the members of the armed

forces who died in the line of duty.

It is observed on November 11 to mark the end of hostilities in the

On the evening of November 10 1919 King George V held a banquet in honour of the President of the French Republic and the first

Official Armistice Day was held the following morning in the grounds of Buckingham Palace. This set the trend for a day of Remembrance

Remembrance Day due to the poem 'In Flanders Fields'. These poppies bloomed across some of the worst battlefields of Flanders in the First World War; their brilliant red colour an appropriate symbol for the blood spilled in the war.

VIC member Dave Jodrell will be creating a half-size female tank as part of works VIC is carrying out to complete the restoration of Whitworth Memorial Gardens. It will be made out of willow and into the structure he will be sewing poppies which are native to Europe and colonised the battlefields. This will be completed before the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War.



First World War, they formally ended 'at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month' with the signing of the Armistice.

come. The red remembrance poppy has become a familiar emblem of



Burnley officially open

VETERANS, serving personnel and their families now have access to one-stop shop for outreach services right in the centre on Burnley.

VIC has opened a drop in at Burnley Retreat and Recover Centre on

Hammerton Street, every Tuesday from 10am to 1pm and the Burnley Mayor Frank Cant performed the opening ceremony.

It is manned by veterans Peter Webster and Danny Flaherty both of whom have a wealth of experience and

are currently taking a Level Three Information Advice and Guidance college course.

The transition between army life in the Royal Ordnance Corps and Civvy Street proved a stumbling block for Danny. He was

discharged on medical grounds in 1991 with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and, although he is a trained carpenter and joiner, is still looking for work.

Danny said: "We can deal with people who have transitional issues and can signpost them to where they can receive help and we can offer support for people who are seeking employment.

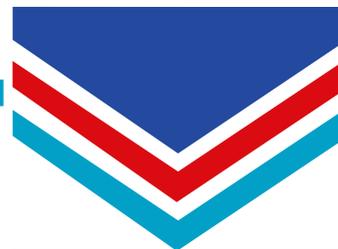
"Also in the centre is Veterans UK and Burnley and District Services' Club so people can get help with housing issues and also get involved with the social side.

"As well as offering outreach, any veteran and their

family will be able to access the other activities offered by VIC including fishing, walks and an art club.

"Joining VIC helps members tackle difficulties they may have with confidence, self esteem and motivation."

VIC secured funding from the East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group to help develop outreach in a number of areas. More help will soon be offered in Pendle, Accrington, Blackburn and Darwen and the Ribble Valley to complement established services in Rossendale and Heywood.



Veterans sing out

Art display in Nelson

ORIGINAL paintings, prints, homemade cards and jewellery made by veterans and members of the VIC art group were displayed and sold at an arts and vintage market in Nelson.

The event, over three days at the ACE centre, attracted many traders and local people and was the brainchild of Nelson and Colne College students

VIC shared a stall alongside the Royal British Legion Nelson and District. Nelson was chosen as a Mary Portas Pilot town and awarded £10,000 of regeneration money. The market was one initiative to attract more people into the town.

Bonfire night

MEMBERS will be supporting Hyndburn Rotary Club's community bonfire on Saturday November 2.

VIC will be helping to build the bonfire at Accrington Cricket Club and will also assist with marshaling the event.

The bonfire will be lit at 7pm and a fireworks display will be held at 7.30pm.

VIC has also received a cheque for £250 from the Rotary Club of Accrington, for which the organisation is very grateful.

Guest judge

VIC's Arts and crafts co-ordinator Darren Horsnell was invited to judge the work of Manchester Aviation Art Society.

FORMER military musician Peter Webster is hoping to set up a Veterans' Choir.

The musician and singing teacher is hoping the benefits he enjoys from music can also help others.

Peter, 43, played French horn in the Queen Royal Irish Hussars. Like all military musicians, when he was posted abroad to a conflict area, he also had a secondary job – in his case as a regimental medical assistant. He will not discuss what he witnessed but has struggled with mental health issues since leaving the army in 1997.

He said: "When I listen to music or I sing with a choir, it is like I am in a world of my own. It is a peaceful place and all of my troubles go away."

"Music is a good way to meet

new people and a great way to get the veterans, families and their children involved in a joint activity.

"The members don't have to be able to sing, or even have any musical background – though it would help. It is amazing the sound that is created when a group of people sing together. If veterans want to bring their family along but do not want to sing then that is ok too.

"I would love to be able to get this activity off the ground and would love members and their families help. I love music, always have and always will. Any veteran and their family from East Lancashire is welcome to come and join us."

For more information contact Peter on 01706 871730 or 07423326844 or email veteransincommunities1@gmail.com

Every little helps **TESCO**

MEMBERS of VIC joined forces to carry out a collection and bag pack at Tesco, Haslingden, kindly arranged by the store's community champion Colette Butler.

There was an excellent response, lots of leaflets were distributed and VIC raised £344.

On Friday December 20, from 10am-4pm, VIC will again be at Tesco Haslingden when members will be helping to pack bags and also distribute VIC information and merchandise.



Peter escorts Mayor

VIC member Peter Webster accompanied the Mayor of Rossendale Amanda Robertson and Mayors and Mayoresses from all over the North West to a robing service for the new Mayor of Warrington.

Stan the Van timetable

VIC outreach will be going mobile as it joins the information bus Stan the Van in the Ribble Valley.

Project co-ordinator Andrea Goodall will be on the van to offer outreach advice and signposting to veterans and their families. All day events are from 10am to 4pm.

Locations:

October 31 (all day)	Longridge Civic Hall
November 20 (all day)	Mellor Spar Car Park
December 4 (all day)	Clitheroe Market
January 10 (all day)	Sabden Village Hall
January 31 (morning)	Hurst Green Village Hall
January 31 (afternoon)	Ribchester main car park
March 12 (all day)	Simonstone Stock Pub car park

Get your boots on

WALKS will take place in November in Haslingden and Bacup.

The first walk will be on Thursday November 7 meeting at Haslingden Community Link at 10.30am for an 11am start. The walk will be around Ogden reservoir.

Then, on Thursday November 21 walkers should meet at the car park next to Futures Park, Newchurch Road, Bacup, at 10.30am for an 11am. The walk will be around Lee Quarry so stout boots will be needed.



Service pays respects to the bravery of Private Whitham VC



Shortlisted for award

VETERANS In Communities is delighted to have been nominated for a Rossendale Business Award.

The charity has been shortlisted in the 'not for profit' category.

The awards' ceremony is on Wednesday November 6 at St Mary's Chambers in Rawtenstall. Rossendale Business Awards is run by Valley At Work.

A POIGNANT service was held by the grave of Private Thomas Whitham, who was awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery in the First World War.

Members of VIC joined the Nelson and Burnley branches of the Royal British Legion and the Coldstream Guards to pay their respects at the Wheatley Lane Inghamite Church in Fence near Burnley where Private Whitham is buried.

On January 25 1915, Thomas Whitham enlisted in the British Army. He was 29 and a private in the 1st Battalion, Coldstream Guards. On July 31 1917 at Pilckem near Ypres, Belgium, during an attack, an enemy machine-gun was seen to be enfilading the battalion on the right. Private Whitham, on his own initiative, immediately

worked his way from shell-hole to shell-hole through his own barrage, reached the machine-gun and, although under very heavy fire, captured it together with an officer and two other ranks. This bold action was of great assistance to the battalion and

undoubtedly saved many lives

VIC project co-ordinator Andrea Goodall said: "When Private Whitham returned home after the war he was a hero and received a tumultuous welcome back to his hometown.

"After the war he became a bricklayer. In a situation reminiscent of what has happened to some veterans we have met, he



struggled to find work and he was forced to sell his Victoria Cross and a gold watch that had been presented to him by Burnley Council in recognition of his bravery.

"He sadly died a pauper in 1924 aged just 36. He received one of just five Victoria Crosses

awarded to servicemen from Burnley for their bravery in the First World War."

Fortunately the council rescued his medal and watch from a pawn shop and both remain on display.

In 1952, a grave was erected for him by the Coldstream Guards Association and to this day they still tend it.

Introducing: Steve Outreach worker

THE newest member of the VIC team is Steve Butterworth from Holcombe Brook.

Steve joined the Royal Navy in 1976 and served on board HMS Intrepid during the Falklands Campaign in 1982.

He said: "I have been with VIC, since January this year after being signposted from Live At Ease.

"I enjoy taking part in the Art Group on a Friday and I have also ventured out on one or two of the walks.

"In July, I organised the pop up shop in Bury at the Millgate Shopping Centre where the group and other veterans from around the country exhibited their work for a week.

"I am very much looking forward to getting stuck into my role as an outreach worker for VIC and being in a position where I



can help others just as I have been helped by VIC."

Steve has been married to Maria for 29 years and they have two children Adam, 27, and Hannah, 25, and one granddaughter Maizie.

VIC goes 'On The Buses'

COMMUNITY bus service Rosso is partnership working with VIC to allowing members to collect on the buses.

Starting on Wednesday November 20, VIC members accompanied by Rosso staff (formerly Rossendale Transport) will be fundraising on their buses.



VIC manager Bob Elliott said: "Initially we will use four bus service routes that terminate in Bury. The aim is to have two VIC members with one of their staff on each bus.

"We need eight volunteers initially to help out. Two will leave Accrington, Two will leave Ramsbottom and four will leave Rawtenstall on two routes.

"This is great opportunity to raise funds and work with ROSSO; if successful we will look at replicating this on other days."

The proceeds of the bus collections will be used to pay for a community Christmas Party at the new home of VIC – the Mary Hindle Centre in Haslingden.

To help contact VIC on 01706 871730.



ROSSENDALE

VIC Outreach Service

MONDAY

11am-1pm

Haslingden Community Link, Bury Road,
Haslingden, BB4 5PG.

WEDNESDAY

11am-3pm

REAL Office, St James Square, Bacup, OL13
9AA.

VIC Art Group and drop-in

FRIDAY

11am-3pm

REAL Office, St James Square, Bacup, OL13
9AA

Walking Group

THURSDAY

Walks are arranged on the 2nd and 4th
Thursday, weather permitting. Contact VIC on
01706 871730.

VIC Family Support Group

FRIDAY

A support network that meet every week at
1pm at Asda, Rawtenstall. Contact Suzanne
on **01706 871730.**

HEYWOOD

VIC Outreach Service

WEDNESDAY

11am-2.30pm

Recovery Republic, 63-65 York Street,
Heywood, OL10 4NR.

Badminton

3pm-4pm

Heywood Sports Village, West Starkey Street,
Heywood, OL10 4TW.

Walks will be held fortnightly on **Thursdays**
combined with the Rossendale walking group.

BURNLEY

VIC Outreach Service

TUESDAY

10am-2pm

****NEW VENUE****

Retreat 'n' Recover Centre, 21 Hammerton
Street, Burnley, BB11 1NA.

Combat Stress Helpline

0800 138 1619

PCT Military Veterans Service

0161 253 6638

The Royal British Legion

08457 725 725

Rossendale Citizens' Advice Bureau

0844 499 4121 (from a landline)

0300 456 2552 (from a mobile)

The Samaritans

01706 830999

Mental Health Helpline

0500 639000

Monday to Friday 7pm - 11pm Saturday and

Sunday 12 Noon to 12 midnight

East Lancashire Single Point of Access

via GP or self-referral

01282 657116

Contacts

VIC – 01706 871730

Manager Bob Elliott

bobelliott@veteransincommunities.org

07961 554 006

Project Co-ordinator Andrea Goodall

andreagoodall@veteransincommunities.org

Family Support Worker Suzanne Preston

suzannepreston@veteransincommunities.org

Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell

darrenhorsnell@veteransincommunities.org

VIC supported by:



VIC update

NOVEMBER is always a poignant time of year for veterans as they prepare to take part in Remembrance Services to pay their respects to fallen comrades from the many conflicts there have been since the First World War.

At VIC we will be wearing our poppies with pride and as an organisation we are gaining momentum. As well as reflection, we must also look forward.

VIC was delighted to secure funding for our project to complete the works in Whitworth on the Memorial Gardens mentioned in last month's newsletter. This will be finished in time for the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War.

Our ability to reach out to veterans and their families across East Lancashire has been strengthened by our presence in Burnley and also in the Ribble Valley where we will be on Stan the Van.

We are looking forward to having a permanent base at the Mary Hindle Centre in Haslingden and will be welcoming the community into the centre when we hold a Christmas party.

Yes, November is a time for reflection and we will never forget. But it is also a time to view the progress our charity has made in a very short space of time and celebrate the successes we have had while looking forward to being able to make a difference to the lives of many more veterans in the future.

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VIC Veterans In Communities