



*BIKERS who joined the Ride Of Respect by wearing a red T-shirt and riding their bikes around the M60 to form a poppy raised £2,000 for VIC. The bikers received a warm welcome when they visited our centre to present the money.*

## Artwork sells within days

**VIC artists sold two paintings in the first few days of an exhibition at Haworth Art Gallery in Accrington.**

The VIC display showcases a diverse range of artwork from paintings to fretwork that have been created in the many classes we organise.

The exhibition is being held concurrent with one to celebrate the centenary of the RAF.

At the opening ceremony Graham Jones MP said: "I have always been a big supporter of VIC. I have been connected with VIC since it started and am very

proud of all the support that they give to the veterans."

Graham has previously bought a painting of a mother leopard and her cub that was created by VIC Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell.

Paintings by Steve Butterworth and Liz Taylor were sold in the first few days.

Darren said: "I would like to thank everyone for helping me to set up the exhibition and to Project Worker Jaqui Collins who was a great help and made the first contact with Haworth Art Gallery and



helped me throughout.

"The exhibition will be on until May 20 and I will be returning with more members of my family who were unable to be there for the opening.

"We had a massive turnout of VIC members to the opening and we have around 40 paintings in the first floor art gallery and most are for sale.

"We have also put on display the work of some of the new attendees at the Bob Ross classes, which are run at the VIC Centre. It was the first time these

artists had ever had a painting on display in a gallery."



*Photos by Lauren Davies*







## *In production*

**TWO stunning rocking horses are being created by Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth as the Veterans In Production project takes shape.**

Using our workshop at VIC and off cuts of wood donated by Deegan Joinery of Bacup



and some pallets from J and J Ormerod of Bacup, Steve is making a

rocking horse as an heirloom and a second that will be auctioned for VIC.

## **Bill Hemming**

**MEMBERS of VIC along with other veterans joined family and friends for the funeral service of Second World War veteran Bill Hemming.**

Bill served in the Royal Artillery and had been living at Mona Cliffe Residential Home in Littleborough where he came to the attention of VIC.

VIC Project Worker Jaqui Collins had visited him at his home, but he was unable to explain his service history.

However his family have now been able to obtain his service records and he was a Gunner with the Royal Artillery HAA regiment, he served in Britain and then landed at Normandy and fought all the way to Berlin.

A shortage of metal after the war meant he had never received his medals, but his family had applied to have them issued. Unfortunately they arrived the day after he passed away, so he was never able to have them presented.

His funeral was held on April 17 at Rochdale Crematorium and members of VIC, other veterans and Rochdale Council Armed Forces Officer Caen Matthew attended

Harry Mills, Chairman of Lancashire Veterans' Association, co-ordinated the Last Post and standards and arranged the Union Drapes. The Rochdale branch of The Royal British Legion paraded its standard and veteran bikers were also present.

His niece Kath Clegg said: "It was a fitting send off. I am grateful to all who attended the service and also to Rev Margaret Smith, Chaplain to The Royal British Legion, who conducted the service."

## *Canal cruise success*

**ALMOST 30 VIC members enjoyed a three-hour canal trip on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.**

A three-course meal was served as they sailed from Riley Green Marina in Hoghton towards Chorley.

They went through locks, which was a new experience to many.

Former VIC Admin Officer Tracy Keir said: "I just want to say a huge thank you to Ivy Limbrick for organising the canal cruise. The sun shone, the canal barge was beautiful and very comfortable and the company was fantastic.

"The staff were ever so polite and nothing was too much trouble and the food was delivered efficiently with no one having to wait.

"The meals were hot and my vegetarian meal was absolutely delicious. Many thanks to VIC for offering this wonderful trip; it was very much appreciated."

Her views were echoed by Project Worker Jaqui Collins who added: "We had snow on the previous days, but that day it was really bright and crisp and the sun shone through the canal boat windows."



## *Online help*

**CALLING all online shoppers, there is now a quick and easy way for you to support the work of VIC.**

Log on to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk), join to support Veterans In Communities (East Lancs) and follow the simple instructions.

The organisation has 3,300 retailers who support the scheme including Amazon, ebay, Sainsbury's and comparison sites

All your subsequent shopping online will benefit VIC.

There are no catches, it is free to join and there are no hidden charges. To find out more contact Admin Officer Amanda Walton on 01706 833180.

## *Footy appeal*

**WALKING football and five a side are being offered to veterans by Burnley FC in the Community.**

From April 25, every Wednesday at Hameldon Community College, Burnley. there will be free sessions of walking football from 6-7pm and 5-a-side from 7-8pm.

For more information contact Naomi Greene on [n.greene@burnleyfc.com](mailto:n.greene@burnleyfc.com)

## *Just the ticket*

**EIGHT members of VIC who helped to create a community café for Burnley FC in the Community are being rewarded with Premier League match day tickets.**

They will get to see the Clarets play Brighton on Saturday April 28.





## Lizzie's got talent



**STUNNING artwork was created at the latest Bob Ross class at VIC, including this picture from nine-year-old Lizzie Deegan.**

On May 26 the 24th painting in the style Bob Ross class will be held when artists will tackle an amazing elephant painting.

The cost is £45 and all materials are supplied including tea and coffee, but a packed lunch is advised. The class starts at 10.30am and normally finishes around 3.30pm, but places are limited.



*Team building picture special coming soon*

## Walking group

**A MEANDER round the Crawshawbooth hills was enjoyed by VIC walking group.**

On Thursday May 17 there will be a six mile hike to the Singing Ringing Tree above Burnley.



*AS PART of our commitment to support veterans at the most difficult times in the year, VIC once again opened its doors over the Easter holiday for food, banter and company.*



## Mindfulness

**A TWO-day mindfulness course will be held at VIC on Friday May 11 and Tuesday May 15 from 10am-4.30pm.**

The course is free to those on benefits or in receipt of a pension and a maximum of 20 people can attend.

Places must be booked by calling 01706 833180.

## Grand Nat

**VIC was pleased when the winning Grand National horse was not picked in a works' sweepstake, as Tiger Roll's success netted VIC £90.**

Filter Fabrications, behind the VIC Centre in Haslingden, held a sweepstake before the race, but four horses were not selected. One was Tiger Roll which went on to win in a photo finish with Pleasant Company.

## Museum trip

**A TWO-hour guided tour of Helmshore Textile Museum was enjoyed by members of VIC.**

The historic mills will reopen to the public soon, but, thanks to Outdoor Activities Co-ordinator Ivy Limbrick, 10 members of VIC were privileged to have an early visit.



## In fine voice

**THE VIC Singing Group entertained three different groups last month.**

They helped to officially open the new park at Clod Lane where although it was not a fundraiser £44.32 was donated.

At Asda in Rawtenstall an

amazing £660.82 was collected – the highest ever total raised in the store.

The group also sang for the members of Rossendale Armed Forces and Veterans' Breakfast Club at Haslingden Community Link.



## Finalist Tony

**CONGRATULATIONS to VIC member Tony Stubbs for being a finalist in the Inspiration category of the national Soldiering On Awards.**

He was invited to the glittering presentation at the Park Plaza Westminster Bridge Hotel when the winners of the awards were announced.

Tony is a peer mentor with the Military Veterans Service and runs the VIC allotment in Middleton.

**AFTER last year's successful Veterans and Voices Concert at St Mary's Church, Rawtenstall, we are repeating the event on Friday June 8 at 7pm.**

The concert raised £720 for VIC.

On Thursday May 3 at 1.30pm there is a chance for members to go tubing at Ski Rossendale subsidised by VIC.

Non members will be charged £10. To book call 01706 833180.

VIC will be Canadian canoeing on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at

Foulridge, including a trip through a tunnel, on August 30.

**To book activities visit Events on the VIC Facebook page or call 01706 833180.**

## Concerts, tubing and canoeing – lots to do at VIC



## ROSSENDALE

Activities are held at the VIC Centre, Bury Road, Haslingden, BB4 5PL, unless otherwise stated.

### Outreach Service

#### MONDAY-FRIDAY

10am-3pm

For a home appointment call 01706 833180

#### MONDAY

##### Crafty Chatters

10.30am-12.30pm

#### TUESDAY

##### Allotment in Helmshore

Volunteers are being sought to help Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth with the allotment on Holcombe Road, Helmshore. Contact 01706 833180.

#### WEDNESDAY

##### Community Arts and Crafts

10am-noon

##### Art Class

2pm-4pm

Jubilee Court, Jubilee Road, Haslingden, BB4 4DD.

#### THURSDAY

##### Singing Group (weekly)

6.30-8.30pm

#### TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

##### Art Group and drop-in

10.30am-3.30pm

#### SECOND SATURDAY

##### Veterans' Breakfast Club

10am-12-30pm

Bumbles' Cafe, Haslingden Community Link, Bury Road, Haslingden BB4 5PG

##### Walking Group, Social Outings and Outdoor Activities

These are held every **THURSDAY**. Please visit the *Events* section on our VIC Facebook page or log on to the VIC website and follow the link to *Projects and Activities*. Places must be booked.

##### Positive Art

Our art shop is now based at the VIC Centre, Bury Road, Haslingden, BB4 5PL, contact 01706 833180 for details.

## HEYWOOD, MIDDLETON AND ROCHDALE

### The Sandbag Cafe and drop in

#### TUESDAY

10am-noon

Sandon House, Taylor Street, Heywood OL10 4EF.

#### TUESDAY AND SOME FRIDAYS

FROM MAY 11am-3pm

Allotment, Latrigg Crescent, Langley, Middleton M24 4LU.

Check with VIC 01706 833180

#### THURSDAY

9.30-10.30am Rochdale Breakfast Club, Rochdale Town Hall Bistro OL16 1AB.

10.30am-noon

##### VIC Outreach

1 Riverside, Rochdale OL16 1UB.

#### THURSDAY

11.30am-1.30pm

Lighthouse Project, Unit S6b/c Middleton Shopping Centre, Limetrees Road, Middleton M24 4EL.

Check with VIC 01706 833180

## HYNDBURN

### Outreach Service

#### MONDAYS

1-3pm

Ground floor near cafe Accrington Market.

## VIC – 01706 833180

## Contacts

### Chief Executive Liz Hamilton

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### Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell

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### Outdoor Activities Co-ordinator Ivy Limbrick

ivylimbrick@vic.org.uk

### Singing Group Bookings Barry Hyde

barryhyde@vic.org.uk

### Combat Stress Helpline

0800 138 1619

### NHS Military Veterans Psychological Therapies Service (NW)

0161 253 6638

### The Royal British Legion

0808 802 8080 7 days a week 8am - 8pm

### SSAFA

email Lancashire@ssafo.org.uk

01772 260 462

### Rossendale Citizens' Advice

0300 456 2552 Mon to Fri 10am-4pm

### The Samaritans

01706 830999 Freephone 116 123

### Mental Health Helpline

0800 915 4640 Mon to Fri 7pm - 11pm Sat & Sun 12 noon to 12 midnight

### Royal Air Forces Association

01772 426930

### Veterans UK Free Helpline

0808 1914 218

### East Lancashire Single Point of Access via GP or self-referral

01282 657116

### Bolton Armed Forces Centre 4 Veterans

www.bafc4v.org 01204 776628

## PENDLE

### Outreach Service

10am-noon

#### MONDAY - first week only

Place de Creil, near Wilkos, Nelson.

#### MONDAY - second week only

Market Place Car park, Town Square Colne.

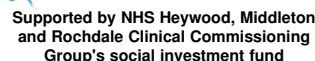
Contact 01706 833180 for dates of outreach at the Armed Forces Support Group, Holmefield Mill, Gisburn Road, Barrowford.

## Want to help?

To donate to support the work of Veterans In Communities please visit our website and click on the secure BT MyDonate page

www.vic.org.uk

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