



VIC Newsletter

Deputy Mayor praises help for vets

A WARM welcome was extended to all at the open day at VIC Hyndburn veterans' drop-in and the Deputy Mayor was astounded by the charity's work.

Hyndburn Deputy Mayor Councillor Terry Hurn, who visited with the Mayoress his wife Jean, said: "I knew very little about VIC before I arrived, but after talking to people here and seeing what is going on for veterans and how it helps people who are struggling, it is unbelievable.

"What they do and how they go about it with such

enthusiasm. Everyone has enjoyed telling me about what they were doing and how much coming here has helped them."

He was given a guided tour downstairs to the model railway layout in the cellar of the drop-in at Accrington Arndale. There, Bob Brindley, along with six veterans and veterans' relatives are creating a huge installation.

Bob, a Royal Signals' veteran, said: "We are creating a 1:76 scale model of the Glenfinnan Viaduct made famous in the Harry Potter films – it will cost us

just £26."

He explained how the design had been meticulously worked out, making special moulds for the pillars, with one side wider to support the curve, and the archways.

He said: "The original viaduct was



disabilities, and members learn new skills as well as using their technical experience as a member of the armed forces.

Art and craft work, made by veterans, is also sold at the drop-in and anyone is welcome to call in for a brew and a natter.

Councillor Hurn, who spent 11 years as an Ambulance crew member, said: "This is really putting Lancashire and Accrington on the map.

"Myself and the Deputy Mayoress have been talking to

quite a few people about what they have been doing here and how VIC has helped them.

"This place brings people back to life. It makes people have value and be able to use the skills they learnt while serving their country; helping them to better themselves."

● Our main base in Bury Road, Haslingden, will be open from 10am on Saturday May 6 so that veterans can watch the Coronation of our Commander in Chief King Charles. There will be Jacob's Join buffet, so, if able, please bring a food donation.



made in 1907 and we are recreating it in concrete sections to an exact scale.

"We are using maths, engineering and practical skills and what we are doing is being noticed in the model railway world. We hope it will be finished in a couple of weeks."

The club is for anyone, including people with

A very Happy Birthday to 100-year-old Bernard

OUR oldest member Bernard Munton celebrated his 100th birthday at The Sandbag Café in Heywood, before being invited to visit Downing Street.

Royal Signals veteran Bernard, joined up when he was 18 and served until 1947.

The Sandbag



Committee organised for a brass band to play at his birthday celebration and he

was then taken to Burnley where Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was on a visit.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "He spent a good 45 minutes chatting to the PM and they discussed his war service and Bernard mentioned that he had not received an army pension.

"The PM asked his aides to look into it and he also invited

Bernard to an all-expenses paid trip to London to visit Downing Street and to sit in Winston Churchill's chair."

After leaving the forces, Bernard married his sweetheart Gladys and, when she passed away in 1917, they had been married for 72 years.



Leader of the House visits VIC

LEADER of the House of Commons and Lord President of the Council, Penny Mordaunt and Hyndburn and Haslingden MP Sara Britcliffe, along with local councillors, called into the VIC Centre



to see what our charity is all about.

Penny, whose father served in the Parachute Regiment, was very interested in the work of VIC and how we help and support those who have served.

They spent over an hour talking to some of our staff, volunteers and VIC members about different projects and how our members share their skills, knowledge and experience to help one another.

Craft fair

REFRESHMENTS and cakes will be served up by VIC members supporting the Rawtenstall Vintage and Craft Fair being held in Rawtenstall's Unitarian Church off Bank Street.

The event will be on Saturday May 20 from 10am to 4pm and VIC will also be holding a raffle

Teddy bears

MEMBERS of the Crafty Chatters, who meet at the VIC Centre every Monday morning, are supporting Verve's Campaign at Salford Royal by knitting and crocheting hearts and small teddy bears for the Swan team to support bereaved parents and families.

Mental health

VIC will have a stall at a Big Mental Health Connect event at The Ashcroft in Whitworth on Tuesday May 16.

Forces fair

AT THE start of Armed Forces Week on Saturday June 18, VIC will be represented at the second Uniformed Services Family Fun Day to be held at Towneley Park in Burnley.

Holiday open

AS PART of our commitment to be there for veterans, the VIC Centre was open on Good Friday and Easter Monday and will also be open on Bank Holiday Monday May 8 from 10am.



Mayor calls in

MAYOR of Rochdale Councillor Ali Ahmed made one of the last visits of his Mayoral Year to Rochdale Veterans' Breakfast Club.

The sessions are attended

by VIC Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth and others including Tony Woolfenden, Brian, Dave Barber from The Royal British Legion, along with Maurice and James from the Rochdale Para Association.



Cyber talk

A TEAM from the Cyber Crime Unit attended our Greggs RV to discuss Cyber Security Awareness.

They gave out useful advice and information on how to keep online accounts safe and secure.

This session will also be offered to our outreach venues across East Lancashire and Greater Manchester.

For more information check out Twitter @LancsFraudCyber



Allotment help

MORE fantastic work has been carried out by our volunteer Sam Smith to improve the VIC allotment at Holcombe Road, Helmshore.

Sam has been sowing fruit and vegetables to be planted in the

allotment and is appealing for help to lay old carpets to reclaim allotment areas from invasive Himalayan Balsam.

If you would like to get involved, contact Sam on the office number 01706 833180.



Book your trip



Bimbling along...

THURSDAYS 'not quite as strenuous' bimbles are proving popular.

An anti-clockwise walk from Jumbles Reservoir Country Park was held and the reward was a lovely bacon sandwich and a cup of coffee at the Jumbles café. A second walk saw walkers enjoying a route from Dunsop Bridge.

Bimble walks are held every Thursday and occasionally on a Saturday and walks for the more hardy are also organised. **Contact 01706 833180 for more details.**



OUR first trip of the year was held on April 14 when members visited Carnforth Heritage Centre.

After an interesting tour around the centre, everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch in the café.

Roland and Sheila Dunn said: "Many thanks to Pat for arranging the trip to Carnforth and also to Graham for driving us all there."

"It was good to see the station and all the very interesting exhibits on show and also the mini-cinema where Brief Encounter was showing."

Social Inclusion Activities Volunteer Pat McEvoy has arranged a number of trips in the next few months.

On **Friday May 19**, at 10am the minibus will leave for Heskin Hall, Chorley, to the antique centre, the cost of £12 includes transport and lunch.

The Hot Ice Skating Show at Blackpool Pleasure Beach will be the destination on **Wednesday July 12**, leaving at 1pm for the matinee show at 2.30pm – cost £20



including transport and admission.

On **Wednesday July 26** at 10am the trip will be to Embsay and Bolton Abbey Steam Railway in North Yorkshire, cost £19.

Plans are being drawn up for a visit on **Wednesday September 13** to the National Arboretum in Staffordshire.

For more information on future trips contact Pat on 01706 833180.

Shaping Armed Forces help for future

AS a partner in the Veterans Places, Pathways and People programme, VPPP, VIC Chief Executive Amanda Walton attended Burnley Football Club when the work that has been carried out so far was evaluated.

Amanda said: "We discussed the legacy that the project will leave and looked to the future. Our next task is to work on a social prescribing toolkit

that can be shared out to partners and others in the future."

On May 24 there will be a VPPP NW conference held in Wigan. It will showcase North West portfolio work, have keynote speeches, workshops and stalls and will target professionals and business people from across the sector.

Along with a number of veterans organisations, we have joined the 'Pride in

Veterans Standard (PiVS)'.

Fighting with Pride is a charity we are working with on the VPPP programme.

We are in the process of organising a training session, which will be run by Fighting With Pride, for our outreach and volunteers team in supporting the LGBTQ+ com-



Where's the choir been?

THANK you to generous staff and shoppers at Asda Rawtenstall who donated £301.89 while the VIC Choir kept them entertained.

Thank you to the choir members for their superb singing and to Asda Community Champion

Laura Saxton and our wonderful collectors Pat McEvoy, Steve Butterworth and Amanda Walton.

Volunteer collectors will be needed when the choir performs on Sunday May 7 at Tesco Haslingden from 1-4pm and on Saturday June 10 from 1-4pm at Asda Rawtenstall.





ROSSENDALE

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

Outreach Service

MONDAY-FRIDAY

9am-4.30pm

For a home appointment call 01706 833180

MONDAY

Crafty Chatters

10am-12 noon

TUESDAY

Art Group

10am-3.30pm

Cost £6 places limited book on

01706 833180

WEDNESDAY

Allotment

Help on the allotment in Holcombe Road,

Helmshore. Contact 01706 833180

THURSDAY

Greggs RV

1pm-3pm

THURSDAY

VIC Choir (weekly)

6.30-8.30pm

FRIDAY

Art Group

10am-3.30pm

Cost £6 places limited book on

01706 833180

SUNDAY

Drop-in

10.15am-12.30pm

SECOND SATURDAY IN THE MONTH

Rossendale Armed Forces and Veterans' Breakfast Club

10am-12.30pm

Haslingden Community Link Cafe, Bury

Road, Haslingden BB4 5PG (book in advance)

EVERY MONTH

Painting in the Style of Bob Ross art classes

Contact Darren 01706 833180

Walking Groups/ Social Inclusion trips

see Facebook or website for details

10am-noon

Trinity Methodist Church, Wesleyan Row,

Parson Lane Clitheroe, BB7 2JY.

RIBBLE VALLEY

Coffee Morning and Outreach

TUESDAYS

VIC – 01706 833180

Chief Executive Amanda Walton

amandawalton@vic.org.uk

Operations Manager Bob Elliott

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07961 554 006

Administrator Amy Thompson

amythompson@vic.org.uk

Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth

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Project Worker Bev Fowler

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07741 902 343

Project Worker Ray Sharkey

raysharkey@vic.org.uk

Transformational Coach Gill Hughes

gillhughes@vic.org.uk

07741 902 411

Volunteer Support Worker Mel Fitzgerald

melfitzgerald@vic.org.uk

Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell

darrenhorsnell@vic.org.uk

VIC Choir Bookings Barry Hyde

barryhyde@vic.org.uk

Contacts

Combat Stress Helpline

0800 138 1619

NHS Military Veterans Psychological Therapies Service (NW)

0300 323 0707

The Royal British Legion

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

SSAFA

email Lancashire@ssafa.org.uk

01772 260 462

Citizens' Advice Rossendale and Hyndburn

0808 278 7975 freephone Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

The Samaritans

01282 694929

Mon to Fri 9am-9pm

Freephone 116 123

Op Courage

0300 373 3332 email

opcourageNORTH@cntw.nhs.uk

Veterans UK Free Helpline

0808 1914 218

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

01282 657116

Armed Forces Support Group

01282 613132

BURNLEY AND PENDLE

Outreach Service

MONDAY

Breakfast Club at Burnley Miners' Social Club, Plumbe Street, Burnley, BB11 3AA. 10am-noon

Contact 01706 833180 for dates of outreach at: Burnley FC in the Community; Pendle Armed Forces Support Group, Holmefield House, Gisburn Road, Barrowford; Morrisons in Nelson and Asda in Colne.

HEYWOOD, MIDDLETON AND ROCHDALE

The Sandbag Cafe and drop-in

TUESDAY

10am-noon

Sandon House, Taylor Street, Heywood OL10 1EF.

VIC Outreach

TUESDAY

The Mess Tin - cafe and drop-in

1pm-2.30pm

The Lighthouse Project, Middleton Shopping Centre, M24 1AB.

THURSDAY

Rochdale Veterans' Breakfast Club and VIC Outreach

9am-10.30am Touchstones Cafe, The Esplanade OL16 1AQ.

HYNDBURN

Outreach / Drop-In/ Model Railway Club

FRIDAY

10am-3pm

VIC Hyndburn, Accrington Arndale Centre, BB5 1EX.

Accrington Stanley Breakfast Club/ Drop-In

LAST WEDNESDAY EVERY MONTH

9.30am-11am

Lancashire Carers Link, 54-56 Blackburn Road, Accrington, BB5 1LE.

BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN

Outreach Service

TUESDAY

Rovers Breakfast Hub, Legends Lounge, Darwen End, Blackburn Rovers FC, Ewood Park, Blackburn, BB2 4JF. 10.30am-noon

Want to help?

To donate to support the work of VIC please visit our website

www.veteransincommunities.org

Veterans In Communities Charity Number 1151194

VIC supported by:



Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board



The Confederation of Service Charities



PROUDLY SUPPORTING THOSE WHO SERVE.



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www.facebook.com
VIC Veterans In Communities