



VIC Newsletter

Battlefields tour planned for D-Day anniversary

A SPECIAL 80th anniversary of D-Day tour of the battlefields is being planned by VIC for June 2024.

The road trip will visit Normandy in France, where the troops landed on the beaches, and travel to The Somme along with other First World War sites.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "The initial plan, at the moment, is to leave from Portsmouth and sail to Le Havre, spend

two nights around Caen and visit the D-Day sites.

"On the third night, we will stay around Amiens and visit The Somme areas and then we plan to finish at the Menin Gate to hear The Last Post.

"We have not yet decided whether to stay another night, we will then travel back from Calais."

The cost has been estimated at around £400 per person and a minimum of eight or nine people is needed.

Ideally, 11 would mean the trip maximises the capacity of the minibus and would give as many people as possible the opportunity to attend.

Bob said: "We understand that with the cost of living at the moment and everybody is struggling financially, and this is why we have decided to put it back to June next year to allow those wanting to join us chance to save the money.

"We will set up a

system where you can pay monthly to ease the costs once we have confirmed those who want to join the trip."

Accommodation will be either on campsites, AirBnB or combination of both. These costs will be included, along with breakfast and an evening meal.

Anyone wanting to know more should contact Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell on 01706 833180.

Progress made on VPPP

AS PARTNERS in the multi-agency Veterans' Places, Pathways and People, VPPP, VIC is working to assist the Armed Forces community in Preston.

Last January we were selected to be a part of delivering the VPPP – an Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust programme.

Nationally, £9million has been awarded to the programme which is being delivered by four national strategic projects and a further 10 regional projects.

In the North West, Broughton House, in Salford, is the portfolio lead and the Armed Forces HQ at Wigan is managing the programme.

It was at Wigan that partners met up to discuss



the next steps and VIC was represented by Operations Manager Bob Elliott and Chief Executive Amanda Walton.

Amanda said: "We will be assisting others to set up social hubs and developing a social prescribing toolkit to help veterans.

"We have been contacted by David Waters, President of Central Armed Forces Veterans' Association, in Preston. There are very few

local facilities in the Central Lancashire area, but there is still a need.

"He wanted to do something about this and contacted Project Manager for Lancashire Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust Ian Barber who put us in touch.

"We have agreed to help and support him to set up ongoing welfare and advice support to veterans in that area."

Marshal appeal

VOLUNTEERS are being sought to help out in June by marshalling at a fundraising carp fishing event for VIC being held in Oxford.

Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell said: "We are looking for around six volunteers to assist with the competition on June 6.

"We will leave on June 5, travel down and camp and then provide marshals for the 36-hour carp fishing competition.

"VIC will provide the travel, camping and food costs and we need people who are happy to sleep in tents, which can also be provided including sleeping bags etc. At the event they will be marshalling the 32 pegs, weighing fish and providing food and refreshments for those taking part. If you would like to help, please contact 01706 833180."

Scam alert info day

IMPORTANT information and warnings about scams will be available at an Age UK event at Haslingden Community Link on January 31 from 11am-2pm.

If you need a smoke alarm, help with completing attendance allowance forms, want a mini health check, support with how to use digital devices or will writing, or want to know how to avoid being scammed, just call in.



RIP Lewis and Bill



IT IS with great sadness that we have said a final farewell to two Royal Signals' members of VIC this month.

The funeral was held for D-Day veteran despatch rider Lewis Banham, from Weir, who passed away peacefully in

December just a month after he had celebrated his 100th birthday.

At his funeral at Burnley Crematorium, a guard of honour was provided by members of VIC and the Veterans Living History Museum.

Bill Pearson,

from Bacup, died in late December after bravely battling cancer. His funeral was also held at Burnley Crematorium

Both Lewis and Bill were regular attendees at Rossendale Armed Forces and Veterans' Breakfast Club in Haslingden.



Christmas was celebrated at The Greggs RV at the VIC Centre, Haslingden with a festive quiz a Jacob's Join buffet and goodies provided by Laura Saxton, Asda Community Champion.



VIC's Allotment is starting to take shape and the bulbs are beginning to sprout. A huge thanks Sam and the Holden Arms for allowing VIC to use their skip.



Football

OUR friends at Burnley Football Club in the Community run a veterans mixed football session every Tuesday evening.

The sessions run from 8pm to 9.30pm up to April at Prairie Sports Village and are free to join and play.

For more information email Daniella Worth on daniella.worth@burnleyfc.com or call 07934 853407.

Hearing loss

A SOLICITOR is offering a no win no fee service to claim for hearing loss linked to service for those who left after 1987.

Veterans can make a claim themselves or ask a solicitor to act on your behalf, but they will take a percentage of any award you may be entitled to.

For more information contact Blackburn's Greenbank Lawyers on 01254 924811 or email info@greenbanklawyers.co.uk

Expo held

A SOCIAL Business Expo was organised by Selnat, the Social Enterprise Lancashire Network, at Blackburn Cathedral.

Chief Executive Amanda Walton and Transformational Coach Gill Hughes joined the 32 exhibitors.



Outreach named

OUR newly-named VIC Redoubt Coffee Morning is held every Tuesday at Trinity Methodist Church and Community Hub in Clitheroe.

On the last outreach of 2022, Volunteer Ron Flowers put together a Christmas quiz and veterans then joined the Ribble Valley Community Living Room at Trinity for hot tomato soup and turkey and cranberry sandwiches.

For more information email Project Worker Ray Sharkey on raysharkey@vic.org.uk

Generous donation

WHEN Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth was asked by a friend, who also served in the navy, if he would carry the SAMA82 standard at a Remembrance match, he willingly volunteered.

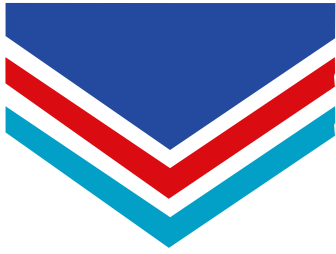
The Bury AFC V Padiham game took place at Radcliffe football ground on November 5. Before the match, there was a parade, a Remembrance ceremony and two-minute silence. Steve asked as many Falklands Veterans and members of the Association to attend.

The fundraising committee was keen to support veterans and they made a donation of £1,105 to VIC

John Cranshaw, from Heritage at Bury AFC, came to VIC and was shown round the centre and told about the work VIC does and how we help and he explained about Bury AFC.

We hope to work collaboratively with Bury AFC in the future to raise awareness of both VIC and Borough Of Bury Veterans Association and the needs of veterans.





2022 - Review

This year was our 10th anniversary and a very special year for us, some veterans charities and organisations were greatly affected by the pandemic, but VIC came through stronger as we were able to plan and adapt to the 'new way of working'.

ACTIVITIES

Each week, more than 80 people attended the activities at VIC outreach venues in Accrington, Clitheroe, Haslingden, Heywood and Middleton. These include: art and craft groups, social trips, walks, model railway club and Choir. Each month, the VIC Centre had an average of 112 members, partner organisations and drop-in's.

VIP VISIT

In January, Retired Colonel David Richmond CBE, an Independent Advisor to the UK Government, visited the VIC Centre. He wanted to learn more about the charity and the work that VIC does and he chatted to several veterans.

BREAKFAST

Accrington Stanley Community Trust held its first Veterans' Breakfast Club at Carers Link Accrington. VIC is supporting this new initiative and Project Worker Ray Sharkey worked closely with Lee from the Trust to get this open.

FILM-MAKING

We started filming

the 'The Stories In Transition' project in February.

VIC members Darren Horsnell, Steve Butterworth, Dave Joddrell and some of our members were involved in the filming process and were interviewed.

INFO STANDS

This year our outreach team held a number of information stands across our operating areas.

WORK EXP

We took another young person on work experience from North Lancs Training. He learnt social and general building maintenance skills and found employment.

GOLDEN GOAL

We already have the Silver Employer Recognition Award and this year we are going for the Gold Award.

MINISTER VISIT

MP John Healey, Shadow Secretary of State for Defence, Graham Jones for former MP for Hyndburn and the leader of Rossendale Council Alyson Barnes spent over two hours talking to some of our

members and seeing what we do.

ASDIC CONF

Our CEO and Ops Manager attended the two-day ASDIC conference in Leeds. It was a great opportunity to meet other Veteran Drop-In Services around the UK and hear about the work being done to support the Armed Forces Community.

OUT AND ABOUT

A number of social inclusion trips were held including: Fusilier Museum, Police Museum, Whitehough Outdoor Centre, Lancashire Infantry Museum, Royal Military College, Royal Armouries, Bygones Times, The Mill Cafe and the National Arboretum.

FREEDOM

Members from Ribble Valley Veterans Drop-In joined the people of Ribble Valley to celebrate The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment Freedom Parade.

JUBILEE

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations were held for Queen Elizabeth II, in all VIC locations. In Haslingden an original 14ft-long

Coronation Banner from 1953 was hung outside the centre.

EVENTS

We had stands at the Amazing Accrington Food Festival and War Re-enactment Day in June, at Burnley's first Uniform Services Family Fun Day, and Preston Military Show.

SPEAKERS

Guest speakers Rod Ross and Col Martin Newman delivered a talk on 'British Jews in the First World War – We were there too' and Geoff Hutchinson, formerly a Major in the 14/20th Hussars, gave a talk on his multiple tours when serving on 'Op Banner'.

IN BLOOM

We helped paint the Positive Start Shop front in Rawtenstall for Britain In Bloom and adopted a flower bed at Sparrow Park where the Cenotaph is situated, and created a Falklands-themed bed. Rossendale Civic Pride achieved gold.

SOAPBOX

After many months of preparation, we raced our soapbox, based on the old Willy's Jeep, in the Accrington Soapbox

Challenge.

REMEMBRANCE

Following the announcement of the death of HM Queen Elizabeth, the VIC centre in Haslingden opened a Book of Condolence. Our members were particularly affected as she was their Commander in Chief of the Regiments and Corps.

ZIP CHALLENGE

Brave members completed the Zip World Velocity 2 Challenge in North Wales to raise money for VIC.

CELEBRATION

We held our 10 year celebration evening at Burnley FC, attended by around 100 members, volunteers, guests, supporters, partner organisations and sponsors.

MARATHON

Sandbag Cafe member Gordon Aaron completed the Manchester Half Marathon at the age of 87.

BENCHES

The Veterans In Production's largest project to date saw 13 memorial benches made for Salford Veterans Breakfast Club.

LEWIS

Our oldest member Lewis Banham celebrated his

100th birthday in November; sadly, Lewis passed away in December.

REMEMBRANCE

As with every year, members and volunteers attended Remembrance services across Rossendale, Bury, Burnley, Clitheroe, Oldham, Rochdale, Heywood and Middleton. This year, we also had members in London.

POPPY GARDEN

Crafty Chatters Group made knitted poppies that were displayed at the former Stubbins Congregational Churchyard.

JACK MEDAL

The REME Association paid a visit to the VIC Centre to meet veteran Jack Riley who had received his Légion d'Honneur medal.

WARM PLACE

We teamed up with Asda Foundation to open the VIC Centre as 'warm place'.

CHRISTMAS

Celebrations were held across the areas that we work in and 50 hampers were distributed to veterans.

REST IN PEACE

Sadly we lost some members this year; Dennis Rawes, Peter Harris, Bill Lally, Trevor Tyerrl, Lewis Banham and Bill Pearson. RIP.



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 Group/ Social Inclusion trips see Facebook or website for details

10am-noon

Trinity Methodist Church, Wesleyan Row, Parson Lane Clitheroe, BB7 2JY.

BURNLEY AND PENDLE

Outreach Service

MONDAY

Breakfast Club at Burnley Miners Social Club, 27a Plumbe Street, Burnley, BB11 3AA. 10am-noon

Contact 01706 833180 for dates of outreach at: Burnley Football 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.

RIBBLE VALLEY

Redoubt Coffee Morning and Outreach

TUESDAYS

VIC – 01706 833180

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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@ssafo.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

0800 652 2867 seek a referral through a GP or health professional

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

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: **NHS**
East Lancashire
Clinical Commissioning Group



Rossendale *alive*
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Borough of Pendle

ROCHDALE
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH
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