



Lest we forget

VETERANS were out in force to mark Remembrance at services across Rossendale and Greater Manchester.

Our singing group was in fine voice when they performed at the Festival of Remembrance Concert at St Peter's Church in Haslingden alongside The Haslingden Concert Band.

They also sang at the service at the Peace Garden in Stacksteads.

In 2015 we began holding an Armistice Day service at Haslingden Cenotaph and

this year the numbers attending more than doubled. Bill Ogden led the act of Remembrance and veteran military musician Peter Webster played the Last Post and Reveille.

At Bacup Cemetery, 135 crosses each with a poppy were laid out in neat rows next to the War Memorial, each represented a soldier who is buried or remembered on a headstone in the cemetery.

A short service attended by VIC members was held, Peter played the Last Post and Bill laid a wreath.

Several VIC members attended a presentation at Alder Grange School in Rawtenstall when veteran Ted Davidson presented the



school with a sculpture.

We also had members at Remembrance Sunday services

in Haslingden, Bacup and Whitworth.

Three generations attended ceremonies in Rochdale and Tottington, present from VIC was Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth, his son veteran Adam and Adam's daughter Maizie who wore her great-great-great-uncle Enoch Butterworth's medals from the First World War.

Outreach Worker Claire Wright attended a service in Davyholme while Volunteer Outreach Worker Tony Stubbs was present for Bolton's Armistice Day service and Haslingden Remembrance Sunday.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "On Remembrance Sunday in Haslingden the parade concluded outside the VIC Centre in Bury Road. Afterwards we had nearly 80 visitors call in.

"We were also invited to the Festival of Remembrance concert at Manchester Airport which was attended by six members."



Picture Peter Wood





Winners take a bow



OUR press officer and our photographer shared the trophy for Sole Trader Business Awards.

Catherine Smyth Media has been working for VIC since its inception providing news stories and writing this newsletter.

Liz Henson Photography has voluntarily provided us with photographs of events and headshots for our website.

Unbeknown to some of the 200 plus people who packed The Riverside in Whitworth, Catherine and Liz have worked hand in hand on a number of different projects over the years from commissioned pieces to PR stories.

On the night, 17 different awards were presented from community and creative, microbusiness and tourism, new to independent retailer. A special award for 2016

was entitled Pride of our Valley and six finalists shared the award, including Barry Hyde, a trustee at VIC, who helps to promote a variety of activities in the Valley and is a member of our Singing Group.

We also organised the raffle on the night which raised £235 for VIC.

Thank you to everyone who donated a raffle prize, bought a ticket on the night and helped to run the stall.



Ingenious use of wood

PALLETS have been given a new use by veterans and turned into raised beds and benches.

Kitchen, bedroom and bathroom manufacturer J and J Ormerod in Bacup offered the pallets for free and the Crew Van was put to good use to collect the wood and deliver it to our centre in Haslingden.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "Members of VIC have been very industrious and come up with a number of different uses for the wood, which had been offered as potential bonfire material.

"We are grateful to JJO for allowing us to take the wood and hope the company likes what we have been able to make with it, rather than just see it all go up in smoke.

"Some of the pallets have been recycled into raised beds for our two allotments in Helmshore and Middleton.

"It is important that we make raised beds so that it is easier for veterans to look after any crops that are being grown.

"We have also been able to make benches and as soon as we posted a photograph of the benches on Facebook we got orders from people."



The Helmshore allotment now sports a shed, which was kindly donated by Work Great Sheds of Blackburn and built by members.

Veterans are going to be using the pallets to make decking outside the shed and a seating area for the benches.

Christmas lunch

OUR Christmas lunch will be held this year at The Whitaker's Arms, 322 Burnley Road, Accrington.

The meal will be on Thursday December 15 and there will be set meals to choose from.

Places must be prebooked with Tracy Keir on 01706 833180 and a £5 deposit is needed.

Singing dates

OUR Singing Group will be bringing festive cheer to Christmas shoppers at three supermarkets in December.

On Saturday December 10 they will be singing at Tesco Bury, on Friday December 16 they will be at Asda Rawtenstall and on Wednesday December 21 they will be performing at Tesco Haslingden.

Anyone who can help collect while the singers are performing should contact VIC on 01706 833180.



Happy 94th Lewis



NORMANDY veteran Lewis Banham was delighted to be presented with a new blazer complete with Royal Signals badge and Corps tie for his 94th birthday.

Lewis first started attending VIC's outreach sessions in Bacup. He was then invited along to the VIC Centre and fellow Royal Signals veteran Bill Ogden has been happily collecting him every week so

he can attend the art group where he enjoys colouring bird pictures.

However, when he went along on November 4 he found there were quite a few more people than normal and he was delighted when his comrade Bill presented him with a birthday cake.

Then came the surprise as the tie and blazer were presented by Brigadier David Hargreaves, Chairman of the Royal Signals Association.

Lewis told the assembled party guests: "This is a really nice surprise; I thank you all a lot. You know coming here, it's improved my life. Instead of just looking at the television, I come here and that's fine, I enjoy it a lot – the company's fine. Thank you for the blazer, it's great."

Lewis served in the Royal Signals and was called up in 1942 when he was 19 and had only been married for three weeks.

He left his Bacup home and was posted to the 15th Scottish Infantry Division and then the 44th Infantry where he was a despatch rider. He served for four years and eight months.

He wore his new blazer and tie along with his medals on Remembrance Sunday.



Reaching out

IT HAS been a busy month for outreach work.

We held an information stand at Littleborough Group Practice, outreach at Sandon House Community Centre, in Heywood, and we have now opened a new outreach service every Monday at Recovery Republic, York Street, Heywood, from 1-3.30pm.



Bob Ross painting class

STUNNING panda paintings were created by members of our popular Bob Ross class.

The next group is on Saturday November 26 and the class costs £35 including all materials. Tea and coffee is supplied, but a packed lunch is recommended. Classes start at 10.30am and finish around 3.30pm. To book call 01706 833180.

Walkers tackle rocks

HARDY walkers took to Bridestone Rocks in Todmorden, despite inclement weather.

Our programme of outdoor activities for 2017 is currently being put together by Co-ordinator Ivy Limbrick.

We will have more details about what is planned and when in our December newsletter.



CRAFTS created in groups held at the VIC Centre went on display on our stall at a craft fayre held at Trinity Baptist Church, Bacup. We sold around £100 worth of items from garlands to folded books and poppies.

Walking football

OUR sponsored football kit from Lifestylish.com is being put to good use in a different kind of match – walking football.

On the first Thursday of every month at Heywood Sports Village, members of VIC will be fielding a walking football team.

Outreach Worker Claire Wright said: "Our next meeting will be on Thursday December 1 from 2pm to 4pm and we will have an indoor training session.

"At this session we will be introducing walking football and hopefully we will be able to field a team to play matches against others in Rochdale and Heywood."

We would like to thank Dean Sorah from Link4Life for organising the sessions.

Grant aids building

VIC would like to thank County Councillor David Stansfield for a grant of £300 towards essential maintenance on the VIC Centre.

The grant will help us to repoint some of the ridge tiles on the single-storey extension to our building.

It will also help fund replacement beading on some of the external windows.

Members of VIC will assist in carrying out the work.



ROSSENDALE

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

Outreach Service MONDAY-FRIDAY

10am-3pm

To book a home appointment call 01706 833180.

MONDAY

Crafty Chatters

10.30am-12.30pm

WEDNESDAY

Community Arts and Crafts

10am-noon

Computer Functional Skills

9.30am-12.30pm

Art Classes

2pm-4pm

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

THURSDAY

Rossendale Citizens' Advice (weekly)

Shelter (second Thursday only)

Morning

Singing Group (weekly)

6.30-8.30pm

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

Art Group and drop-in

11am-3pm

FRIDAY

Lancashire Wellbeing Service

morning

Walking Group

Morning

Walks will be held on alternate THURSDAYS, weather permitting. Log on to VIC Facebook page to see where the next walks will be.

Outdoor Activities

Log on to our website and follow the link on Projects and Activities to see what we have planned and how to book a place. A full leaflet is available.

Positive Art

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

HEYWOOD, MIDDLETON AND ROCHDALE

Outreach Service

MONDAYS

1pm-3.30pm

Recovery Republic, 63 York Street, Heywood OL10 4NR

TUESDAY - alternate weeks

11am-3pm

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

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, Cromer Mill Estate, Off Hilton Fold Lane, Middleton M24 2NB.

Walking Football

First Thursday only 1pm-3pm

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

Walking Group

Walks will be held on alternate

THURSDAYS and are combined with the Rossendale walking group.

Contacts

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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

Volunteer Outreach Worker and Music Project

Co-ordinator Peter Webster

peterwebster@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@ssafa.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

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

BURNLEY AND 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.

MONDAY - third week only

Town Square, Albert Road, Barnoldswick.

MONDAY - to be confirmed

Town Centre, Burnley.

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.veteransincommunities.org

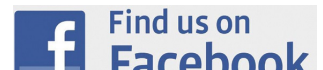
VIC supported by:



East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group



Supported by NHS Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale Clinical Commissioning Group's social investment fund



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