

# Schools' Armistice show nets VIC £1,500

**A HEADTEACHER's idea evolved into a 600-pupil stage production, which raised £7,100 for five veterans' charities.**

Armistice – The Great War Remembered was performed to packed audiences at Preston Guild Hall on November 11 last year.

It involved 15 primary, secondary and special schools in the Longridge cluster and headteacher of Barnacre Road Primary School, Longridge, Simon Wallis adopted the



roles of scriptwriter, director and producer not to mention fundraiser.

It was 18 months in the making and had 20 individual scenes telling various aspects of the First World War both home and abroad.

Simon said: "My grandfather Eliot Wallis survived the Great War and a transcript of his account of the zeppelins bombing London was read out by my son Charles.

"We also had a 20ft long zeppelin created from old bike wheels which appeared floating above the stage."

Using cardboard, the pupils cleverly built battleships on the stage and then re-enacted the Battle of Jutland accompanied by a world premier piece

of music played on scrap metal. They also created 3D tanks from cardboard that moved about the stage on shopping trolleys.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott from VIC, one of the five beneficiaries, was so impressed with the performance he is buying a DVD.

There are then plans to screen it at the centre in Haslingden and to sell copies.

The proceeds from the show also benefited horticultural charity Dig In North West, The RAF Association, Broughton House, Manchester, and Bing House Royal British Legion retreat in Southport.

When Longridge Lodge of Freemasons watched the performance they decided to donate £400 meaning each

charity received £1,500.

Barnacre Road pupil Lexi-Jo Jackson, 10, said: "I did a canary scene where all the girls wore yellow and we did a dance about women working during the war. Women made shells and bullets."

Whitechapel pupil Sophie Hartley, 11, said: "We did a Charlie Chaplain dance. We had been rehearsing for about two months and I was nervous when I went out on stage in front of all those people but then I saw my mum, dad, auntie and grandma."

Copies of the DVD will be available in school after Easter at a cost of £10 with profits benefiting the veterans' charities. Grants from the Armed Forces Covenant and the Heritage Lottery Fund supported the project.



## Teddies help children cope with trauma

**BEAUTIFUL teddy bears have been donated by members of the Crafty Chatters at VIC to firefighters in Rawtenstall.**

The cute bears have been knitted by the ladies in the group that meets at the VIC Centre every Monday from 10am to noon.

VIC Outdoor Activities Co-ordinator Ivy Limbrick said: "We decided it would



be a good initiative for the craft group and they have enjoyed making the teddy bears.

"We attended Rawtenstall Fire Station when we presented the crew with 20 brightly coloured bears

which will be taken out on shouts and when they are dealing with a child who is struggling with trauma they will give them a bear.

The Crafty Chatters group is open to all.



**Fun at the Bob Ross painting class - see page 3**

# Sauce link benefits veterans

## A SAUCE maker has joined forces with VIC.

The Nowt Poncy Food Company was founded in Water, Rossendale and has five successful sauces, which sell UK-wide.

Co-founders Jools and Karen Abel wanted to make sure their business gave something back and as Jools' father was in the Royal Navy and Karen's father completed his National Service they chose to link up with VIC.

Karen said: "When we first started the business we said that once we take on staff we wanted to employ veterans.

"We would like to be able to offer veterans a chance and also help them to resettle in Civvy



Street. As veterans they will be used to following specific methodology and so they will have the skills that we are looking for.

"The training they have had will be something they can bring to our business and we are very committed to the idea of giving back."

Nowt Poncy is currently seeking to relocate its kitchens to Rossendale and is looking for underused commercial kitchens to rent.

Jools said: "To start with we will be providing VIC with a small percentage from all the sauces we sell.

"We are also offering to support social events that VIC arranges when they are providing catering and we will provide contributions towards emergency food parcels for veterans."

The VIC Centre in Bury Road is open during the holiday period when other charities close, and when it 'opens all

hours' food is always provided for those who drop in to enjoy the banter.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "We are very grateful to Nowt Poncy for the generous offer of support for VIC.

"This is a partnership which we hope will be able to grow and develop over the years to the benefit of both organisations and hopefully will also lead to job opportunities for veterans."

## Stunning hikes



### WALKERS had a fantastic time on a five mile walk from Lydgate to Todmorden taking in the Bridestones Rocks.

If you missed the walk, there are two more planned for April.

On Thursday April 4 there will be an easy 6.5 mile circular walk from Barley Village.

There is a cafe at the end

of the walk for refreshments,

On Thursday Apr 18 walkers will tackle a moderate 7.4 mile circular route from Pooley Bridge, Heywood, taking in the gorge overlooking Cheesden Brook.

On both walks, those using the minibus are asked to make a donation of £3 towards transportation costs. To book contact 01706 833180. Suitable clothing and footwear must be worn.

## Bank customers donate

### GENEROUS customers of NatWest Bank in Rawtenstall donated a hamper full of goodies and £81.57 to Veterans In Communities.

Personal Banker Rose Kearney called into the VIC Centre to hand over the collection along with the hamper.

She said: "We select different charities to support in the branch and we decided to pick VIC. About half of those who called in had not heard of the veterans' charity so we also raised awareness."



## Sing-a-long

### THE VIC Singing Group will be in Rossendale supermarkets to raise money for the charity.

They will be singing at Tesco in Haslingden from 11am to 2pm on Saturday April 13 and on Saturday May 18 they will be at Asda in Rawtenstall from 1-4pm.

Volunteer collectors are being sought.

## First Aid

### VIC member Peter Ashworth will not only lead a first aid course at the VIC Centre in May, he will be assessed at the same time.

On leaving the services, Peter used to run his own first aid training business and once he has been assessed he will then be able to run further courses.

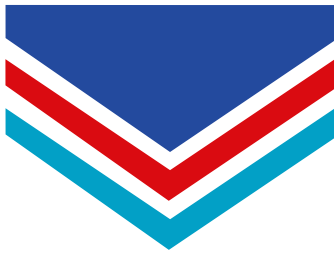
The fully-booked three-day course will also cover paediatric first aid.

## Fishing

### A PARTNERSHIP between Rochdale Veterans' Breakfast Club and Walton Angling will lead to membership being offered to veterans.

It doesn't matter if you have never picked up a rod or you are an experienced angler, all are welcome.

To find out more email Rochdale Council Armed Forces Officer Caen Matthews on [armedforces@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:armedforces@rochdale.gov.uk)



# Thank you JJO for the wood

## Art as therapy

**TWO members of VIC attended an Art for wellbeing conference at Rochdale Town Hall.**

Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell and Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth had their eyes opened to how art can help different people in a variety of settings.

Darren said: "The day was a really good experience and it was very worthwhile going. We also made quite a few contacts."

"We attended a workshop which we thoroughly enjoyed and we learnt how art is used as therapy in different countries."

"There was lots for us to take away, especially how art is used in third world countries to help children who have suffered trauma."

"It showed both of us a different side to art."



## Accrington shop to open

**THERE are some exciting new changes to the VIC outreach in Accrington with the opening of a shop in the Arndale Centre.**

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "We are just waiting to get the keys to a shop in the Arndale and we are planning to open it two days a week."

"On both Tuesdays

and Fridays there will be a drop in outreach session at the shop and we will also be relocating our regular art group on a Tuesday from the VIC Centre to the shop."

"We are looking for volunteer staff to help run the drop in."

"Anyone who is interested can contact myself or Liz on 01706 833180."

## Students promote VIC

**TWO student groups taking part in a philanthropy charity competition project at Bacup and Rawtenstall Grammar School selected VIC.**

Although neither team secured a financial

prize for the charity, they raised awareness. One of the teams also made a novel animation to explain the work of the charity using Lego blocks and it is available to view on our Facebook page.

**TWO bespoke planters have been created for the atrium at JJO as a thank you to the company for providing us with pallets to recycle.**

The kitchen, bedroom and bathroom manufacturer has provided VIC with pallets that they no longer require and these have been made into everything from chairs and planters to bird houses and log stores.

Sales and Marketing Director John Pollitt said: "They fit in with the ethos of our business because we are very concerned about the environment and also keen on recycling."

"It is very forward thinking to take something as useless as a broken pallet and turn it into something useful such as a planter."

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "We are very grateful to JJO for their constant supply of wood to Veterans In Production and the planters are our way of giving back and saying thanks."

"We also get support from Accrington and Rossendale College who provide off cuts of wood."

Simon Peace, who leads Veterans In Production, said wood from one and a quarter pallets had been used to make the two planters.

Grace Codd also helped in the manufacture. She has been working as a volunteer with VIC for around five months. She was initially tasked by North Lancs Training Group to be at the VIC Centre for one day a week and now attends five days.

Simon also spotted a former Aldi supermarket, in Edinburgh Way, Rochdale, had been boarded up prior to being taken over by a car dealership.

The huge plywood boards and battens that were protecting the windows would have been destined for landfill, until Simon asked if they could be donated to VIC for the project.

To find out more contact 01706 833180.



**Bob Ross Art Classes**

## Training courses at VIC Centre

**TRAINING sessions will be hosted by VIC**

The first will be on Wednesday April 17 from 10am-1pm and will be Prevent Awareness training.

Prevent training is to help stop vulnerable people from being exploited and drawn into terrorism.

A second one-day session will be on Wednesday April 24 from 10am-4pm on alcohol and drugs awareness. This will be run by Ron Flowers and will cover: an awareness of the types of drugs used and why, identifying the most commonly used drugs; the signs and

symptoms of drug use; the personal and social effects of drug use; current legislation and the dangers of blood borne infections.

Ron will also be discussing fetal alcohol syndrome.

Both courses will be at the VIC Centre; to book contact 01706 831880.



## 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

10am-12 noon

**TUESDAY**

### Allotment and Veterans In Production

Help on the allotment in Holcombe Road, Helmshore, or manufacture wooden items at the centre. Contact 01706 833180.

**TUESDAY AND FRIDAY**

### Art Group and drop-in

10.30am-3.30pm

**WEDNESDAY**

### Community Arts and Crafts

10am-noon

### Art Class

2pm-4pm

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

**THURSDAY**

### Woodworking Course

10am-3pm

### Computer and IT help drop-in

11am-3pm

### Painting with Pan Pastels

1pm-3pm cost £10

### Singing Group (weekly)

6.30-8.30pm

**SECOND SATURDAY**

### Rossendale Armed Forces and Veterans' Breakfast Club

10am-12.30pm

The Link Cafe, Haslingden Community Link, Bury Road, Haslingden BB4 5PG

**EVERY MONTH**

### Painting in the Style of Bob Ross

Contact Darren 01706 833180.

### 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*.

## BURNLEY AND PENDLE

### Outreach Service

**MONDAY - first week only**

Place de Creil, near Wilkos, Nelson.  
10am-noon

**MONDAY - second week only**

Market Place Car park, Town Square, Colne.  
9am-11am

**TUESDAY - every week**

Breakfast Club at Burnley FC in the Community Cafe, Charter Walk.  
9am-11am

**WEDNESDAY - every week**

Veterans Community Cafe, 1 Great George Street, Colne, BB8 0SY.  
9am-11am

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

## HEYWOOD, MIDDLETON AND ROCHDALE

### The Sandbag Cafe and drop in

**TUESDAY**

10am-noon

Sandon House, Taylor Street, Heywood  
OL10 4EF.

**THURSDAY**

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

### VIC Outreach

1 Riverside, Rochdale OL16 1UB.

## HYNDBURN

### Outreach Service

**MONDAYS**

1-3pm

Ground floor near cafe Accrington Market.

## 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](http://www.vic.org.uk)

## VIC – 01706 833180

Chief Executive Liz Hamilton

[lizhamilton@vic.org.uk](mailto:lizhamilton@vic.org.uk)

Operations Manager Bob Elliott

[bobelliott@vic.org.uk](mailto:bobelliott@vic.org.uk)

07961 554 006

Admin Officer Amanda Walton

[amandawalton@vic.org.uk](mailto:amandawalton@vic.org.uk)

Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth

[stevebutterworth@vic.org.uk](mailto:stevebutterworth@vic.org.uk)

Project Worker Bev Fowler

[beverlyfowler@vic.org.uk](mailto:beverlyfowler@vic.org.uk)

07741 902 343

Transformational Coach Gill Hughes

[gillhughes@vic.org.uk](mailto:gillhughes@vic.org.uk)

07741 902 411

Volunteer Outreach Worker Carole Mills

[carolemills@vic.org.uk](mailto:carolemills@vic.org.uk)

Volunteer Outreach Worker Liz Davies

[lizdavies@vic.org.uk](mailto:lizdavies@vic.org.uk)

Volunteer Support Worker Mel Fitzgerald

[melfitzgerald@vic.org.uk](mailto:melfitzgerald@vic.org.uk)

Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell

[darrenhorsnell@vic.org.uk](mailto:darrenhorsnell@vic.org.uk)

Outdoor Activities Co-ordinator Ivy Limbrick

[ivylimbrick@vic.org.uk](mailto:ivylimbrick@vic.org.uk)

Singing Group Bookings Barry Hyde

[barryhyde@vic.org.uk](mailto:barryhyde@vic.org.uk)

## Contacts

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](mailto:Lancashire@ssafa.org.uk)

01772 260 462

Rossendale Citizens' Advice

0300 456 2552

The Samaritans

01282 694929

Mon to Fri 9am-9pm

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

0800 018 2361

Veterans UK Free Helpline

0808 1914 218

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

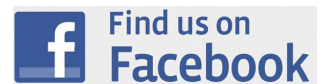
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Bolton Armed Forces Centre 4 Veterans

[www.bafc4v.org](http://www.bafc4v.org)

01204 776628

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