



We say thank you

MEMBERS of VIC have been showing their support for our colleagues manning Coronavirus Testing Stations in Rawtenstall and Clitheroe.

The Royal Signals have been carrying out pre-booked checks and VIC decided they deserved a treat for all their hard work.

When a testing station was set up at Marl Pits in Rawtenstall, we put the shout out for cakes and Julie Davis, daughter of VIC member John Edwards, was quick to volunteer her catering skills.

Hyndburn Outreach Worker Ray Sharkey collected an amazing selection of handmade cakes and, along with Baz Thorpe, he arranged their delivery along with coffee to the testing station.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "This was a small gesture but it

shows the support that we as veterans have for the outstanding work they are doing in East Lancashire and around the UK.

"I would like to say particular thanks to Ray for organising the deliveries. We were asked to provide pies for those manning the station at Clitheroe and Ray asked Haslingden baker Cissy Greens if they could donate them and they were only too happy to help."

Second Lieutenants Sebastian Drew and Callum Moreman along with Lieutenant Jack Wilson were very grateful for the donations and sent photographs.

Sebastian said: "Please pass on our team's thanks for the amazing selection of cakes and the coffee, a great morale boost.

"Attached are photos of us receiving them and the cakes before they all started to disappear! We look forward to seeing you and your team again

soon."

Surplus pies were added to food deliveries VIC is making in collaboration with Positive Start to 40 households in Haslingden and Helmshore every Friday. Thank you to Ray, Baz, Brian McEvoy, Bill Ogden and Jacko Pearce

VIC has kept the centre open week days with Bob and Ray in three days and Chief Executive Amanda Walton and Administrator Amy Thompson the remaining two.

Sessional Worker Bernard Tighe has resumed Veterans In Production and was grateful for a donation of tools from Danny.

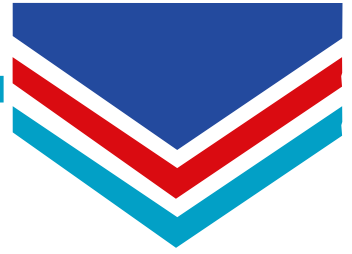
Outreach Workers Steve Butterworth, Bev Fowler, Phol Chamberlain and Andy Holder and Gill Hughes continue to work from home.

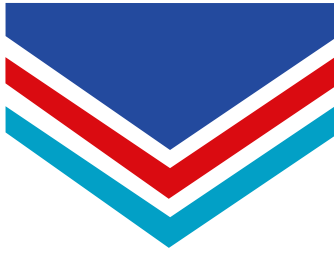
Bob added: "Unfortunately our activities had to be suspended, but we have looked at other ways for groups to keep in touch online."



Main contact 01706 833180
email amandawalton@vic.org.uk
bobelliott@vic.org.uk
amythompson@vic.org.uk or
raysharkey@vic.org.uk
Outreach workers are working from home
but still available:
call Steve Butterworth 07741902188
email stevebutterworth@vic.org.uk
call Bev Fowler 07741902343
email beverleyfowler@vic.org.uk
call Gill Hughes 07741902411
email gillhughes@vic.org.uk

VE Day 75





Personal VE visits



SPECIAL VE Day visits were made to Second World War veterans in Burnley and Weir.

Bill Ogden delivered a special

hamper of goodies to D-Day veteran despatch rider Lewis Banham in Weir and had a safe socially distant chat.

Philip Chamberlain

and Andy Holder visited Peter Maffett, a senior member of Burnley Football Club in the Community Veterans Inclusion Programme's

Breakfast and Thursday Club.

Peter served in Greece and Italy with the Northumberland Fusiliers during the war.



Course will focus on taking better pictures

A TWELVE-week online course will be delivered by Emotive Capture Photography School to VIC members.

A grant of £4,952 from the Lancashire COVID-19 Community Support Fund administered by Lancashire Community Foundation will cover the cost of tuition and any equipment needed by participants.

Chief Executive Amanda Walton said: "We held an online

survey and have had 30 responses and 25 of those wanted to take part.

"The aim of the course is to help people, especially those who are on their own and maybe do not see many people, to be able to record their current surroundings and learn about composition; in short how to take a good picture using simple technology."

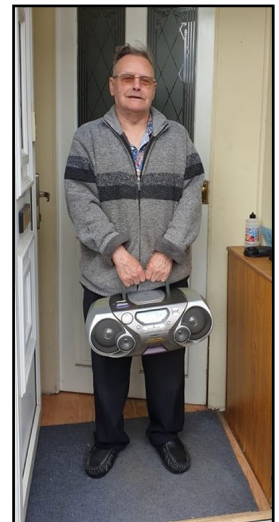
Anyone interested in joining the course can contact Administrator

Amy Thompson on 01706 833180 to book a place.

Amanda added: "There is no upper limit on the amount of people who can join the course and we will have equipment that can be loaned so people can attend.

"Hopefully, when we are allowed to reopen the centre, we will be able to set up a photography club, this will be on a similar basis to the arts and crafts clubs already held."

MUSIC loving veteran Vinnie from Heywood can now enjoy his cassettes after volunteer Jane Tandy delivered a player to him to replace the one that had broken.



Amy's 2.6 challenge

WHEN the London Marathon had to be postponed, the call went out for people to carry out a 2.6 challenge to raise money for charities.

Administrator Amy Thompson, set herself a 2.6 challenge and decided to visit 26 different countries virtually via her treadmill, which was switched to her exercise bike, after a breakdown.

Thanks to Amy and her supporters, £225 was raised for VIC.



Cakes and biscuits food parcel treats

VIC received a generous donation from Asda Rawtenstall's Community Champion Laura Saxton of biscuits and cakes.

The treats went into parcels being delivered by VIC for Positive Start and also for our members in isolation.



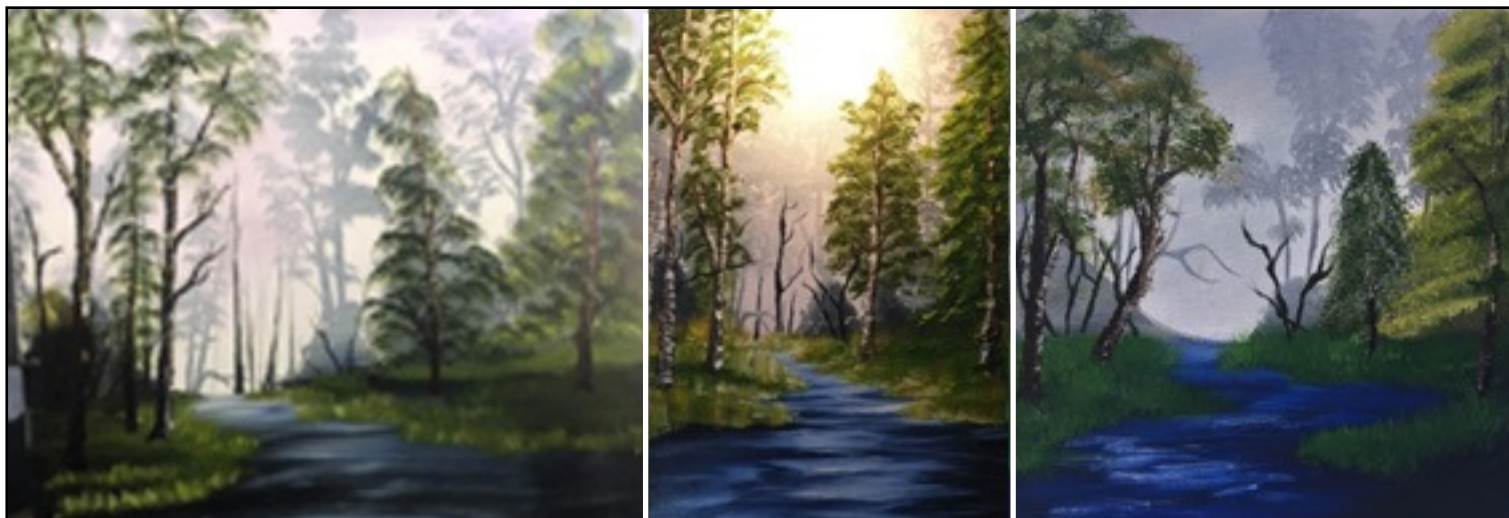
Painting aids zoo appeal

A PRINT of this painting by Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell raised £120 in a silent raffle to help save Colchester Zoo.

Darren said: "My family live in Clacton and when we visit, we will go to the zoo with our grandchildren; it is a really good place.

"Like many places, it too has been affected by the pandemic and I saw that a relative of Tracey's was having a raffle to help raise some money for the zoo and I wanted to help."

The painting is called 'Sanctuary'.



Online art sessions really take off

ONLINE arts and Bob Ross classes have proved a huge success at VIC with amazing results being achieved.

Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell said: "During these hard time VIC has continued to support our art group members by running virtual art group

sessions and lessons in the style of Bob Ross. The results have been amazing.

"I have to admit, when the lockdown was announced I thought everything would just disappear because I couldn't see how we were going to carry on. I didn't think online art would take off."

At first it was planned

just to run the Tuesday and Friday sessions via Zoom, from 12.30pm to 2.30pm but now Darren is also doing Bob Ross classes on Mondays, Thursdays Saturdays and sometimes also on a Sunday.

He said: "The Bob Ross sessions have taken off really well and whereas the paintings used to be completed in

a day, now we do a series of sessions over a week with me giving instruction on a large canvas.

"At first some people were loaning equipment from VIC but now quite a few have decided to buy their own through VIC.

"They are so keen it has shocked me, but it has also done me a lot

of good too."

The feedback Darren has received has also been excellent. One participant said, 'It gives me a purpose to get out of bed in a morning and I look forward to the sessions.'

The art club involves people painting in watercolours, oils, acrylics, colouring and sculpture making.



Brian offers a helping hand

COMMUNITY benches in Oswaldtwistle have been refurbished by VIC member Brian McEvoy.

Before lockdown, Norman visited the VIC Shop in Hyndburn and asked if the benches could be sorted, but at that time the weather was not suitable. As soon as it was, Brian did the job.

He is now helping to tidy up gardens at a property in Accrington which is being renovated by Duncan MacDonald into flats for the homeless.

Duncan is also converting a former Hyndburn Council building into homes for veterans.



Model railway plans on track

PLANS for a model railway club are still going ahead and veteran Jim Smith is creating houses for the layout we will be building in the cellar of the VIC Shop in Hyndburn.

Veteran Vinnie in Heywood is also providing a generous donation of model railway equipment.

Anyone who has track, rolling stock or scenery can contact the VIC Centre on 01706 833180 and safe collection can be arranged.



SESSIONAL Worker Bernard Tighe replaced the last of the gates at the VIC Centre making excellent use of recycled pallets.

A VERY special VE Day version of 'We'll Meet Again' was performed by the VIC Choir and posted on our Facebook page to celebrate the 75th anniversary. Thanks to guest clarinetist Abigail Walton.



What's On and Where



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

WEDNESDAY

Allotment and Veterans In Production

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

Art Class

2pm-4pm

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

THURSDAY

Woodworking Course

10am-3pm

THURSDAY

Computer and IT help drop-in

11am-3pm

VIC Choir (weekly)

6.30-8.30pm

FRIDAY

Art Group and drop-in

10am-3.30pm

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 art classes Contact Darren 01706 833180.

Walking Group, Social Outings and Outdoor Activities These are held every

THURSDAY. Visit the Events section on our VIC Facebook page or the VIC website and follow the link to Projects and Activities

9.30am-11.30pm

Ebenezer's Coffee Shop, The Old Chapel, Ebenezer's Terrace, Billington, BB7 9NN.

BURNLEY AND PENDLE

Outreach Service

TUESDAY - alternate weeks

Breakfast Club at Burnley FC in the Community Cafe, Charter Walk.

9am-11am

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

12.30pm-2.30pm

Middleton Gardens, M24 1AB

The Mess Tin - cafe and drop in

1pm-2.30pm

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

THURSDAY

9am-10.30am Rochdale Breakfast Club Rochdale Town Hall Bistro OL16 1AB.

10.30am-noon

VIC Outreach

1 Riverside, Rochdale OL16 1UB.

HYNDBURN

Outreach Service and Art Group

TUESDAY

10am-3pm

VIC Shop, Accrington Arndale Centre, BB5 1PL.

FRIDAY

Outreach Service

10.30am-3pm

Want to help?

To donate to support the work of VIC please visit our website and click on the secure

Virgin Money Giving link

www.veteransincommunities.org/donate.html

RIBBLE VALLEY

Outreach Service

TUESDAYS

VIC – 01706 833180

Chief Executive Amanda Walton

amandawalton@vic.org.uk

Operations Manager Bob Elliott

bobelliott@vic.org.uk

07961 554 006

Admin Officer Amy Thompson

amythompson@vic.org.uk

Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth

stevebutterworth@vic.org.uk

07741902188

Project Worker Bev Fowler

beverleyfowler@vic.org.uk

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

Outdoor Activities Co-ordinator Ivy Limbrick

ivylimbrick@vic.org.uk

Sessional Worker Bernard Tighe

bernardtighe@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

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

01282 657116

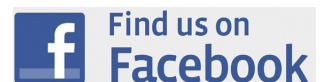
Bolton Armed Forces Centre 4 Veterans

www.bafc4v.org

01204 776628

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