



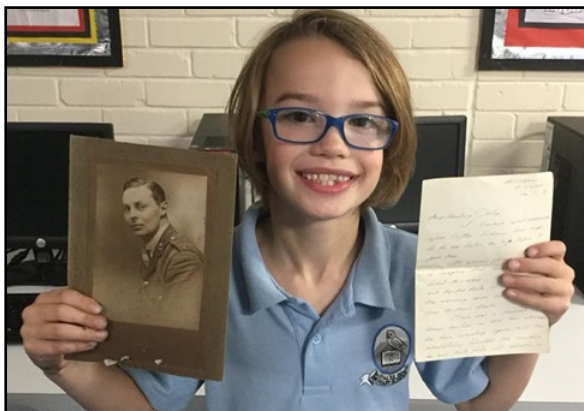
We will remember them

AN EXCITING project has seen two veterans' charities working side-by-side to help a community mark the centenary of the end of the First World War.

Next month VIC members will be attending a series of Remembrance events and none will be more poignant than the Armistice – The Great War Remembered, a production being staged by the Longridge cluster of 15 schools.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "We were invited by the Head of Barnacre Road Primary School in Longridge Simon Wallis to get involved in a project in conjunction with Donna Rowe-Green of Dig-In North West.

"The project has been continually evolving. The next phase will see Dave Joddrell installing a willow sculpture in the Remembrance Garden then further sculptures



in the schools."

VIC's Crafty Chatters have also made knitted poppies to add to almost 20,000 that will be displayed as part of commemorations.

Simon said: "We have 100 plywood 'ghost' soldiers which will be installed around Longridge from October 29 to November 11. Approximately 100 soldiers from Longridge and surrounding areas died in the First World War."

The highlight of events will be two moving performances of a specially-written play detailing First World War scenes at Preston Guild Hall on Sunday

November 11, a matinee at 1.30pm and an evening performance at 7pm involving pupils from all the schools in the cluster.

Simon said: "The children have made a variety of large props and have worked with experts on the production both artists and musicians."

For tickets send a self addressed envelope to Barnacre Road Primary School, Barnacre Road, Longridge, Preston PR3 2PD or call 01772 783555.

Tickets cost £15 each and state whether for the matinee or evening performance.



HUGE poppies have appeared on lampposts across Rossendale including one outside the VIC Centre in Haslingden.

In Bacup, The Royal British Legion got people and organisations to sponsor poppies and each has been dedicated.

One of the many poppies that line the route linking the War Memorials of Bacup and Weir is outside Northern Primary School on Burnley Road.

It is dedicated to three Butterworth soldiers who lost their lives in the First World War, including Enoch, the great uncle of VIC Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth, who died in Ypres in 1917.

Remembrance service events

MEMBERS of VIC will be paying their respects at a host of services across our area.

The Singing Group will be performing at the Rossendale Festival of Remembrance Concert at St Peter's Church, Haslingden, on Sunday November 4 and also at the Remembrance

service in Rawtenstall on Sunday November 11.

Also on Sunday November 4, Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth will be attending a dedication service at Nuttall Park, Ramsbottom.

Manchester Airport will be the venue for another Festival of Remembrance on

Thursday November 8 – VIC has 40 tickets available but places on the Crew Van are limited, contact Admin Officer Amanda Walton on 01706 833180.

Members will be attending the Festival of Remembrance Concert at Preston Guild Hall on Friday November 9 at 7.30pm.





Alan sings for Royalty

FORMER soldier Alan Willetts was honoured to sing in front of Royalty with the Invictus Games Choir at the Royal Albert Hall.

Although VIC member Alan got a place in the choir nearly three years ago, it was



only late last year that he felt able to take up the position.

Alan suffered undiagnosed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder for more than three decades, but since joining VIC his mood has lifted.

He said: "My granddad fought in the First World War, initially in the Manchester Regiment and when they were wiped out he

transferred to the King's Liverpool.

"He was in the Battle of the Somme where he not only buried his comrades he had to

battle to stay alive. He must have had PTSD like me.

"When I was singing with the Invictus Games Choir I was also singing for my family."

At the concert, the world premiere of Patrick Hawes 'Great War Symphony' was performed by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and a massed choir – including the 30-strong Invictus Games Choir, the National

Youth Choir of Great Britain and the Berkshire Youth Choir

The Invictus Games Choir also sang a variety of songs including 'I Vow to Thee My Country'

and a medley of wartime classics including 'Pack up your Troubles' and 'Tipperary'.

Alan said: "When we sung 'In Flanders' Field' it was quite emotional because all the poppies began falling from the roof.

"For me this was the cherry on top of the cake – to be singing in front of that many people.

"There were 5,500 people in the Royal Albert Hall."

Alan now hopes he will get the chance to also sing the 'National Anthem' for the Royal Command Performance in November.

Hollands social

A BIG thank you to Vicki Pate from Hollands Pies who has nominated VIC to benefit from a social on December 1.

Each year a team of three from the Baxenden food manufacturer have the chance to nominate a charity to benefit from the fundraising evening and Vicki suggested VIC.

Representatives from VIC will be in attendance at the event at the Canine Club in Accrington along with information and craft items.



Singers raise super total

NEARLY £500 was raised by members of the VIC Singing Group who were in fine voice at two supermarket concerts.

At Tesco in Bury the group made £193.15 and at Tesco

Haslingden the fantastic total of £296.88 was raised.

The group will be singing and fundraising on December 8, at 1pm, at Asda Rawtenstall, on Sunday December 16 at Tesco in Bury at

11am and on December 22 at 1pm they will be entertaining at Tesco Haslingden.

Thank you to the supermarkets, the customers, the singers and the volunteer collectors.

Celebration

A CELEBRATION Christmas lunch for VIC members will be held at Stonehouse Pizza and Carvery at Sandbrook, Rochdale.

Bookings and full payment of £11.49, along with a menu choice, must be made to Outdoor Activities Co-ordinator Ivy Limbrick by November 23 at the latest.

The lunch will be at 12.30pm on Wednesday December 19.

Aviva fund

VIC will be one of the charities chosen to bid for Aviva funding.

In our next newsletter and on our Facebook page and group we will tell you how you can vote for VIC.

Challenge

VIC members who are up for a challenge are being urged to sign themselves up to a team building day at Challenge 4 Change at Old Trafford on Thursday November 22.

The event will run from 9.30am to 1pm.

To book a place see the events on VIC's Facebook page or call 01706 833180.

Tell GP

DOCTORS' surgeries and health centres now have veterans' champions and so it is important that anyone who has a service history informs their GP.

If you have a military veteran status, make sure that it is included on your records.



VIPs impressed with guided tour of centre

WE WERE delighted to welcome VIPs when we opened our doors as part of the Rossendale Art Trail.

The High Sheriff of Lancashire Tony Attard and his wife Patricia along with the Mayor and Mayoress of Rossendale, Councillor Ann Kenyon and her sister Susan Kapler, called in to the VIC Centre.

They were given a guided tour and saw the many classes that are held at the centre and the facilities available for former military personnel and

emergency services' veterans.

Tony chatted with veterans who had served at a number of different places including Belize, Cyprus, The Falklands, Northern Ireland and more.

He also spoke to former firefighters, police and a lifeboat man.

He said: "I think it is impressive what VIC has been able to achieve. It is so uplifting and VIC is doing a really good job for the people in this local area.

"To have somewhere like this, where veterans can go, meet friends, feel safe and be able to do things, like painting, is a really lovely thing."

Tony explained how his son Max is an actor and had taken on the role of a soldier with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in a play in London's West End.

Chief Executive Liz Hamilton showed Mr Attard around the centre and he was impressed with the artwork that was being produced and chatted at length to Falklands veteran Darren Horsnell, Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator, who was running a Bob Ross painting class.

Liz said: "We could not run this centre without the goodwill of our many volunteers.

"We have eight paid members of staff, but only three of those are full time. I have recently been calculating the amount of volunteer



hours that people put in at VIC and between April and August it was 1,500. That included classes, outreach and activities.

"We could not do what we do without the

support of our volunteers.

"It was lovely to be able to show Tony around and to welcome the Mayor Coun Kenyon into the centre."



Lewis captivates the Dutch



YOUNG at heart veteran Lewis Banham had an amazing time telling the young people in Eindhoven, what it was like to take part in the Liberation 74 years ago.

Lewis, who was a despatch rider in

the Second World War, was a guest of honour in The Netherlands as a thank you. He was accompanied on his travels by fellow VIC member Bill Ogden.

Bill said: "It was absolutely brilliant and a privilege to witness."



Fabulous. I now live in Australia and it great to hear of all the VIC activities especially of my Uncle Lewis Banham, my dad's youngest brother.

Kathleen Mary Hill



Pallets become planters

THANKS to huge pallets provided by furniture manufacturer JJO from Bacup, we now have two more planters ready for delivery.

We have been able to recycle 95 per cent of the wood from the

pallets and we are looking forward to making planters for Haslingden Civic Pride and raised beds for Waterfoot Health Centre.

VIC member Andy Greaves will be in charge of the Waterfoot project that will also involve planting a wildflower meadow.

Final social trips of 2018

AN UNDERGROUND tour involving 245 steps was the final social inclusion trip of 2018 to be made by VIC members.

They explored the Blue John Caverns in Derbyshire

Earlier in October there was a further social inclusion trip to the National Waterways Museum in Ellesmere Port.

A walk was also held to the trig point above Trawden and

on Thursday November 9, leaving the VIC Centre at 9.30am, there will be a seven-mile walk to Compton's Cross.





Angie's Angels lend a hand

THREE Afghan veterans have been helped this month by Angie's Angels.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "A Scots Guard and a Royal Signals' soldier who were homeless have both been rehomed into new accommodation and Angie's Angels have helped provide household items.

"They were also able to step in and help a third veteran who was living in an empty house."

Angie's Angels have provided VIC with work boots, which will be distributed to veterans who need them.

Angie Howarth founded Angie's Angels in 2016 and although the organisation's core area is Rochdale, they help wherever there is a need.



She said: "We help veterans, the homeless and people who are vulnerable and everyone is treated equally.

"We provide furniture and we do not put an item into someone's home that we would not be happy to have in our own house."



Art class

ARTISTS will be painting in the style of Bob Ross at the VIC Centre on Saturday October 27.

The popular class is run by Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell and costs £35 including materials.

Contact 01706 833180.

Fundraise

IT IS easy to help VIC while you shop online.

Register with EasyFundraising and when you buy from certain sellers a donation will be made to VIC by the supplier.

Speak to Amanda for more info 01706 833180.



Books become cash

THANK you to all our generous supporters who donated books to Tesco Haslingden to be sold in aid of six local groups and charities including VIC.

Director Barry Hyde and Operations Manager Bob Elliott went to Tesco to collect a cheque from the summer book sale. A total of £2,500 was donated to organisations from the sale.

Allotment's tasty treats

A HARVEST of crops has been enjoyed by members of VIC thanks to an abundance of fruit and veg grown in our allotment in Helmshore.

Thank you to everyone who has tended to the

allotment this year, especially Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth.

The latest crops included:

leeks, beetroot, celery and cucumbers disguised as bananas.

VIC member Sam Stretch said: "I had a good couple of hours digging and weeding, no pressure to complete anything just while away time in the fresh air.

"I've achieved something instead of being cooped up at home so thank you VIC for providing this space to chill and do something productive."

Raised beds are now clear and ready to be replanted.

Home-made beetroot soup was made by Chief Executive Liz Hamilton from produce harvested from the allotment.





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

10.30am-12.30pm

TUESDAY

Allotment in Helmshore

Volunteers are being sought to help Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth with the allotment on Holcombe Road, Helmshore. Contact 01706 833180.

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

Art Group and drop-in

10.30am-3.30pm

WEDNESDAY

Lancashire Adult Learning Craft Course

10am-12.30pm

Free craft course until December 19.

Community Arts and Crafts

10am-noon

Art Class

2pm-4pm

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

THURSDAY

Woodworking Course

10am-3pm

Singing Group (weekly)

6.30-8.30pm

SECOND SATURDAY

Rossendale Armed Forces and Veterans' Breakfast Club

10am-12-30pm

Bumbles' Cafe, Haslingden Community Link, Bury Road, Haslingden BB4 5PG

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*.

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.

THURSDAY

11.30am-1.30pm

Lighthouse Project, Unit S6b/c Middleton Shopping Centre, Limetrees Road, Middleton M24 4EL.

Check with VIC 01706 833180

HYNDBURN

Outreach Service

MONDAYS

1-3pm

Ground floor near cafe Accrington Market.

VIC – 01706 833180

Chief Executive Liz Hamilton
lizhamilton@vic.org.uk

Operations Manager Bob Elliott
bobelliott@vic.org.uk **07961 554 006**

Admin Officer Amanda Walton
amandawalton@vic.org.uk

Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth
stevebutterworth@vic.org.uk

Project Worker Bev Fowler
beverlyfowler@vic.org.uk **07741 902 343**

Transformational Coach Gill Hughes
gillhughes@vic.org.uk **07741 902 411**

Volunteer Outreach Worker Carole Mills
carolemills@vic.org.uk

Volunteer Outreach Worker Liz Davies
lizdavies@vic.org.uk

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

Singing Group Bookings Barry Hyde
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

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

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. 9am-11am

TUESDAY - every week

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

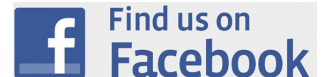
Contact 01706 833180 for dates of outreach at the Pendle Armed Forces Support Group, Holmefield Mill, Gisburn Road, Barrowford.

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

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