

# Pop-up art shop success

## VETERANS opened two pop-up shops in Nelson and Burnley.

Pendle Armed Forces Support Group enlisted the help of Veterans In Communities to fill the first shop in PendleRise shopping centre Nelson with paintings, arts, crafts, a tombola and information.

VIC Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth and Chairman of Pendle Armed Forces Mick Sutcliffe work together every week to deliver outreach services in Pendle towns on a Monday.

Steve said: "We moved everything into the shop in Pendle on Monday and people were already coming in to buy things before we had set it all up.

"We were visited by many people who are veterans and heard many stories."

Mike said: "I have been working together with Steve and VIC for about three years on the outreach. We are all about signposting so people can get whatever help they need.

"I think our liaison has proved successful for both, it is all about working together."

On the first day in Pendle, Steve, a Falklands' veteran, was asked by another veteran about a friend who had died in



the conflict.

Steve not only knew the name, but had placed a cross on his memorial tree in Port Stanley and was able to provide photographs for the veteran.

The shop was visited by RAF veteran Keith Westwell, from Nelson. He said: "I always support anything to do with the services. Some of the artwork is very good and some is outstanding.

"Something like this can take your mind off what is bothering you and you can just concentrate on the art."

Veterans and volunteers then relocated the shop to Burnley and into the new community café that has been opened in Charter Walk by Burnley FC in the Community.

The Nelson shop was so successful it will be returning to PendleRise in December.

## VIC Centre open day

### A BUSY weekend is planned for VIC members at the end of September.

On Saturday September 29 Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell will be running his popular Bob Ross art class at the VIC Centre on Bury Road.

Also that day the VIC Singing Group will be entertaining the shoppers in Tesco Bury.

As part of Rossendale Art trail, from 10am to 2pm on the Sunday September 30, the VIC Centre will be holding an open day, so people can see more of the artwork and craft classes that are held in the centre.

As well as Darren demonstrating fine art, Ivy Limbrick will be showing how to create fretwork, Steve Butterworth will be painting pebbles, Dave Joddrell will be showing woodworking skills and Pat Rothwell will be creating barge art.

The High Sheriff of Lancashire will also be visiting the centre.

## Join the hikers

**WALKERS** selected one of two routes from Barley Village with some tackling Pendle Hill and Fell Wood while others walked the sculpture trail.

There are two walks in the next few months. On Thursday October 25 there will be a moderate 6-miler starting at Jumbles Reservoir and taking in Turton Tower.

While on Thursday November 8 there will be a 7-mile walk from Loveclough to Compston's Cross. Transport leaves the VIC Centre at 9.30am, please book places.



## Ceilidh night raises £900

### A SPECTACULAR ceilidh raised more than £900 for Veterans In Communities and Haslingden Community Link.

The fundraiser, at the Link in Bury Road, Haslingden, was well supported with some 140 people coming along to dance to music by Frolicking Pete and the Fumbling Fingers Ceilidh Band.

They were also entertained by Aontacht Academy of Adult Irish Dancing.

VIC Chief Executive Liz Hamilton said: "It was a really well supported event both by veterans and people from the local community. Everyone was smiling and laughing and it will definitely be repeated."





## New hub

**A LANCASHIRE Armed Forces Hub has been launched to hopefully ensure consistency of service to veterans across all districts in the county.**

VIC was invited to attend the launch at County Hall along with other partners.

The Hub is a partnership between all of the councils in Lancashire, the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN), Lancashire Care Foundation Trust and Army Headquarters North West.

It is funded by the Armed Forces Covenant Trust.



## Sandbag Café birthday

**CONGRATULATIONS to the Sandbag Café in Heywood that is celebrating its first anniversary.**

The Veterans' café opens 10am-noon every Tuesday at Sandon House, Taylor Street, and was set up by VIC Volunteer Outreach Worker Liz Davies as a means to bring together veterans from around the Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale area.

Liz's aim was to not only provide a meeting place for local veterans, but also to connect with isolated veterans and offer support and assistance where needed.

The café has progressed from

servicing a brew and biscuits to offering bacon butties, which are proving to be very popular.

Liz said: "I'm really pleased with how well the café has taken off, we currently have an average of about 18-20 people every week and the attendance is steadily increasing.

"The veterans all pitch in with the running of the café from setting up the tables at the beginning to making the bacon butties and doing the washing up.

"The atmosphere is fantastic, very welcoming and definitely inclusive; no-one is left to sit on their own.

"Everyone is welcome."

## Canoeing fun on the canal

**FOUR members of VIC had an amazing time canoeing on the Leeds and Liverpool Canal.**

Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth, veterans Sam Stretch and Ian Rosales, along with press and PR officer Catherine Smyth spent the day messing about on the canal.

Outdoor Elements provided the canoes and the tutor and after setting sail at Café Cargo in Foulridge, the two Canadian canoes, went into the mile-long tunnel.

Sam, who joined the army at 17 and served in the 3 Armoured Defence Regiment, joined VIC after seeing what the organisation does on Facebook.

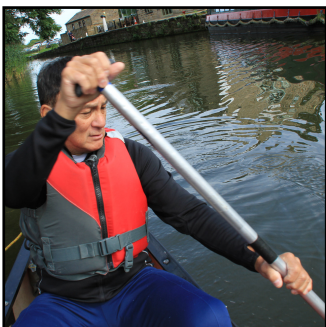
She said: "I could relate to the people at VIC and they spoke my language. Getting involved with the VIC activities makes me get out and get exercise. I want to join the walks too.

"Taking part in the canoeing was amazing, the company and having a laugh. It was



good for me that we only had a small group as I would have struggled with a lot of people.

"The setting is beautiful and the canal was so serene and calm. Going through the tunnel was an incredible experience and I would like to thank VIC for organising it."



## VIC stalls

**TWO stalls were held to promote the work of VIC and sell arts and crafts made by veterans.**

Admin Officer Amanda Walton attended the Rossendale Makers' Market at Rawtenstall Market and Volunteer Outreach Worker Carole Mills organised a stall at Cherry Tree Nursery, Rawtenstall.

## Door plates

**THANKS to VIC member John Edwards' hard work and a generous donation of kickplates from Haslingden firm Filter Fabrications, the finishing touches have been made to the doors at the centre.**

## RBL event

**VIC was well represented at the RBL fundraiser at St Mary's Football Club in Haslingden.**

VIC took the crew van, artwork and the Lest We Forget items and Pat O'Reilly and Jimmy Elsworth brought along the Veterans' Living History Museum.

## Craft fair

**VIC will be having a stall to sell arts and crafts at Trinity Baptist Church, Bacup, Christmas Fair on Saturday November 3.**

## Parliamentary mention

**VIC and Haslingden Royal British Legion came in for praise when the Defence Committee discussed how services to veterans are delivered.**

Haslingden and Hyndburn MP Graham Jones mentioned how he had a fantastic new Royal British Legion in Haslingden and also praised the work of VIC.



## Waste wood recycled

**THIS stunning outdoor table and chair set, complete with canopy was made from recycled wood donated by furniture manufacturer J&J Ormerod of Bacup.**

Chief Executive Liz Hamilton said: "We were overwhelmed by the amount of pallets JJO dropped off at the centre but a lot of people quickly got to work breaking all the wood. It was a really good team effort.

"Two of the lads, Simon



Peace and Jay, then built a bench and table for the centre and I am really impressed. It is built to last. If anyone wants to commission VIC to build one, contact the office."

## New project worker

**WELCOME to our new Project Worker in Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale Bev Fowler.**

Bev joined the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps when she was 18 because she said she wanted to 'grow up a bit', become a bit more independent and do something that was different to the jobs her friends were doing.

During her service she met Lee, her future husband, who was in the 3rd Royal Horse Artillery. When they decided to get married and she could not get a posting in the UK, she left and became an army wife.

She said: "We were in Colchester, Thirsk, Larkhill and Salsbury and I could see Stonehenge from camp. It was quite a change going from serving to being an army wife.

"I have met up with lots of my army colleagues, thanks to Facebook and we have all married within the forces."



Bev went on to work with adults with learning difficulties and latterly was a registered care manager in a home.

She said: "I was delighted when I saw this job come up; I had already met Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth at the Rochdale Breakfast Club.

"I like it because it is military and I feel this job is going to make a difference to somebody. I know how much difficulty some veterans can have.

"You always have a friend in someone who has been in the army."

Bev is working as part of the Integrated Neighbourhood Team.

## VIC 5th AGM



**A HECTIC year at VIC was outlined to attendees at the 5th annual general meeting.**

Chief Executive Liz Hamilton explained how the organisation had assisted more than 150 new members and held more than 200 outreach sessions.

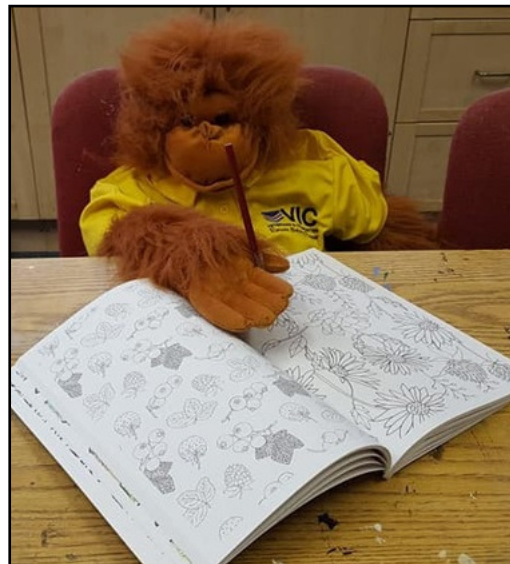
She outlined the amazing community response to the devastating break-in at the VIC Centre and how the money stolen, including Christmas meal money was replaced thanks to generous donations.

Trustees had also agreed to use additional donations to set up a hardship fund that

veterans can apply to in times of need.

VIC continues to be supported by a variety of charities and causes:

- East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale Clinical Commissioning Group through the Social Investment Fund
- ABF The Soldiers' Charity
- Greggs Foundation
- Changing Futures project, part of the Building Better Opportunities Fund jointly funded by the Big Lottery Fund and the European Social Fund.



**OUR mascot Ori the Oran-u-tan has been playing hide and seek for a long time and as no one found him he decided to reveal his location. No sooner has he reappeared than the mischievous mascot was up to his tricks, colouring in the art room, interrupting Liz Taylor when she was painting in Pendle and he even sneaked into Operations Manager Bob Elliott's case to have a holiday in Spain!**

## Remembrance festivals

**VIC will be attending a series of Remembrance events in November.**

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

Manchester Airport

will be the venue for another Festival of Remembrance on Thursday November 8 – VIC has tickets but places on the Crew Van are limited, please 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.

The concert is being organised by HQ North West and will feature representatives of all three services, civilian emergency services and cadets.

On Sunday November 11, VIC will also attend the Remembrance service in Rawtenstall.



## 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

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Volunteer Support Worker Mel Fitzgerald

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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.

Outreach in Burnley will soon be opening at Burnley FC in the Community Café, Charter Walk.

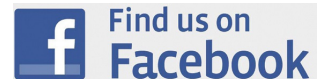
Contact 01706 833180 for dates of outreach at the Armed Forces Support Group, Holmefield Mill, Gisburn Road, Barrowford.

## Want to help?

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www.vic.org.uk

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