



VIC Newsletter

Two years on and going strong

THIS month is the second anniversary of the formation of Veterans In Communities and the charity's success has exceeded all expectations.

Already VIC is working widely throughout East Lancashire and Greater Manchester and is fulfilling the charity's ethos in helping numerous veterans to return, belong and prosper in their communities.

Now we are delighted to announce the appointment of Roger Chaney as VIC's Business Development Manager, who will be working closely with Manager Bob Elliott.

Bob said: "We had some outstanding candidates apply for the position and it was a difficult decision to make.

"I will now continue to run the operational side of VIC, while Roger will be taking a strategic view of the work that we do and seeing how we can take it forward.

"Roger's appointment will enable me to take a step back so I can concentrate on the operational side."

Roger does not have a forces background but brings a wealth of experience in financial project management in both the



public and private sector.

He said: "I am going to help the team grow and develop financially. I will also be an active part of VIC,

"I want to get involved in the walks, the outreach and all the activities and projects that VIC is involved in so when I go to address groups and funders, as VIC's representative, I know exactly what goes on here.

"This will help me put a financial strategy together to develop, to promote and to ultimately use this as a model to grow VIC into different areas."

Roger, 47, from Barrowford, has worked for the Prince's Trust since 2007 and in the early 1990s worked in large car dealership groups.

He said: "I am used to dealing with everyone from the shop floor to senior directors and I am pretty successful in building relationships.

"What impressed me about VIC was how quickly the organisation obtained charitable status – just six months after becoming operational. That is testament to the ability of those behind

the organisation. It has been very successful very quickly.

"Hopefully, with a strategic review of what VIC does, we will be able to grow the model organically, keeping the links that have already been established, while also extending that work outwards."

The board of VIC has seven members but of those only two have seen active service.

Bob added: "It is important to have a mix of experience in the VIC team and in the board - Forces and civilian."



Call to arms to finish project

HELP is required to complete a dry stone wall that is being rebuilt at the rear of Whitworth Memorial Gardens.

VIC members and Community Payback have been rebuilding a section of the wall that runs the length of the gardens off Market Street.

So far around two-thirds has been completed, but more

volunteers are needed so the work can be finished in time for November's Remembrance services.

A special plaque has been made to affix to the wall as a tribute to those who have helped. Contact VIC on 01706 833180.



Prince's Trust presentations

TWO projects run by The Prince's Trust involving young people working with VIC held their final presentations.

Blackburn and Darwen VIC veterans were invited to the Team 79 presentation event organised by the partnership between The Prince's Trust and Lancs Fire and Rescue.

One of the members of Team 79, who is also a member of Darwen Royal British Legion, chose VIC to be part of their community project.

A second presentation was held for the Prince's Trust ACCROSS Team 3.

As part of the 12-week team programme they chose VIC as their community project

where they assisted us with the First World War project in Bacup Cemetery.

VIC members were grateful that the charity was chosen and those who attended the presentations found it inspiring and emotional to hear the challenges the young people had overcome in achieving their certificates.



Ensuring advice is always tip top

VIC now has five members with their Level 3 and one with a Level 4 qualification in Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG).

Suzanne Preston, Darren Horsnell, Steve Butterworth and Peter Webster passed their Level 3 Information, Advice and Guidance NVQ along with Tony

Hayes, chief executive of Veterans Association UK.

With the support and help of assessor Trish Fish from Accross College, they completed the course in just over four months. Manager Bob Elliott already has a Level 4 in IAG.

Further Level 1 and 2 courses in IAG will become available in the near future through Accross.



Doubling the money

A RAFFLE raised around £450 for VIC, but the star prize will raise even more, for another charity.

The first prize raffle winner was presented with her Wigan Warriors autographed top, which had been kindly donated by VIC Manager Bob Elliott.

And when winner Mrs Parkes received the prize she told VIC: "I am going to re-affle the top to raise money for Rossendale Macmillan Cancer Relief."

Health Chats

A FURTHER Health Chat course has been delivered by Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth to seven veterans living in the Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale areas.

The Level 2 Award in Understanding Health Improvement course was held at Heywood Sports Village. In May, Steve and Darren Horsnell delivered the course to veterans serving in HMP Buckley Hall, Rochdale. They all successfully passed and were given certificates.

Health Chats are funded by Rochdale MBC Public Health and more courses will be held in the near future.



Painting takes pride of place

A PAINTING by VIC Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth will be displayed in a Gallipoli display at The Fusilier Museum in Bury.

The museum is undergoing a £1.4m transformation, thanks to a Heritage Lottery grant, and a new conference and events space will add to the museums existing portfolio of rooms which includes the Normandy, Gallipoli and Minden rooms.

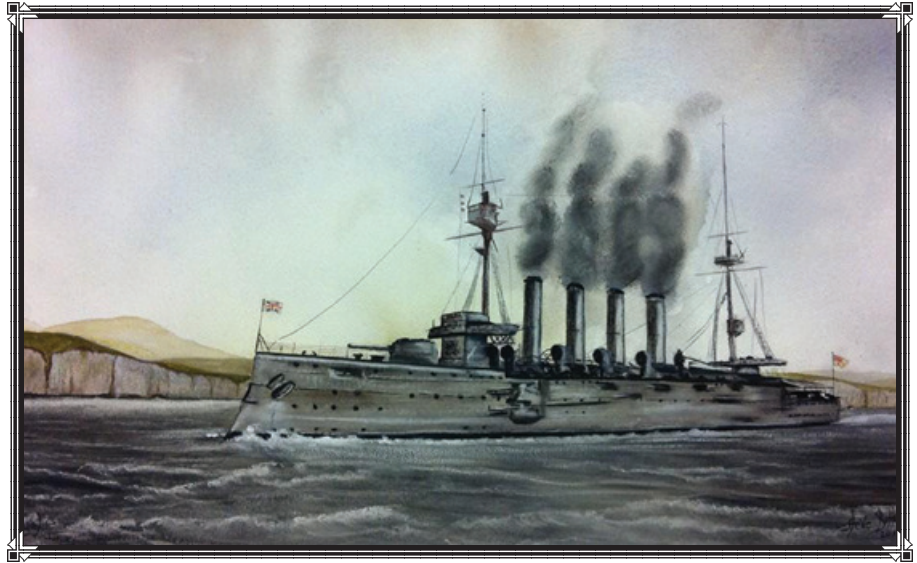
Steve explained: "While we held the art shop and exhibition in Bury, ex-Fusilier standard bearer Steve



Fitt had a stand inside the shop promoting The Fusilier Museum.

"He also helped VIC out by counting the footfall so we knew how many visitors we had in the shop.

"He saw some of my paintings and asked me to paint the HMS



Euryalus for the museum because at Gallipoli the Euryalus took a lot of Fusiliers ashore.

"We also managed to get a ship's cap tally which we incorporated into the mount on the frame."

The landing at Gallipoli was commemorated on July 11 1934,

when Admiral Sir R Burmeister, who had been the captain of Euryalus at Gallipoli, presented the ship's bell to the first Battalion of the Lancashire Fusiliers at Colchester.

The Bury museum has the ship's bell and standard on display in its Gallipoli room.

On April 25 2015, it

will be the 100th anniversary of the Gallipoli landings in Turkey. The landing was achieved against appalling odds, with Euryalus sailors pulling the Battalion ashore in the boats and beaching them within point-blank range of the Turkish gunfire.

Cemetery project

WORK is moving on apace at Bacup Cemetery where VIC members have been working with volunteers from the Prince's Trust.

Operation War Graves 100 will see the graves of 109 soldiers from the First World War properly recognised with new memorial stones listing the soldier's name, regiment, rank, age and date of death.

Some of the graves previously only had a keystone with the soldier's initials and many of these had fallen flat

and were buried.

War graves Project Officer Peter Webster said: "We have now finished the graves of 21 soldiers with plinths and stones and the last remaining bases have been cut to size from concrete slabs kindly provided by Rossendale Council.

"By the end of September these will all be laid and we are just waiting for the headstones to be finished by Chislestones of Bacup. Half have already been completed."

VIC marshals aid walkers on Round the Hills hike

VOLUNTEER marshals from VIC helped to man checkpoints for Rossendale Round the Hills Walk.

The 18-mile slog was also completed by VIC member Graham Gilesnan, who had to admit this year's walk was tough going.

Manning the first checkpoint at The Halo were Darren Horsnell and Steve Butterworth. In between clocking the walkers and runners in, they also watched an aerial display by Rossendale and Hyndburn Model Aircraft Club who have their own mini 'airfield' off Higher Lane near The Halo.



But Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren was too busy chatting to witness an aeronautical disaster when one of the planes plunged to the ground and exploded into pieces.

In total seven VIC members helped Rossendale Rotary Club to marshal the event by manning two checkpoints.

What's On and Where



ROSSENDALE

VIC Outreach Services

MONDAY-FRIDAY

11am-1pm

VIC Centre, Bury Road, Haslingden,
BB4 5PL.

MONDAY

10-12 noon

Bacup Library, St James Square, Bacup,
OL13 9AH

VIC Singing Group

THURSDAY

6.30-8.30pm

VIC Centre, Bury Road, Haslingden,
BB4 5PL.

VIC Art Group and drop-in

FRIDAY

11am-3pm

VIC Centre, Bury Road, Haslingden,
BB4 5PL.

Walking Group

THURSDAY

Walks are arranged on the 2nd and 4th
Thursday, weather permitting.

VIC update

THE last two years has gone incredibly quickly for VIC and we are looking forward to many more successful years.

This newsletter is packed full of news about our latest work but don't forget there is always more going on and please check our website and Facebook pages regularly.

Our Social Inclusion project is running a trip to Southport Air Show this month, see October's VIC News for the full story.

The Creative Community Hub has been working in a sheltered housing scheme and this has proved hugely popular with some fantastic artwork being produced.

To inspire the painters at our Friday arts and crafts sessions co-ordinator Darren Horsnell organised a trip to picturesque Bolton Abbey last month.

There is always something happening at the VIC Centre with courses and activities, classes and outreach.

Whether a veteran or not please call in and see how we can work together to improve the lives of veterans throughout East Lancashire.

HEYWOOD

VIC Outreach Service

WEDNESDAY

11am-2.30pm

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

Badminton

3pm-4pm

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

Walks will be held fortnightly on **Thursdays**
combined with the Rossendale walking group.

BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN

VIC Outreach Service

TUESDAY

10am- 2pm

Darwen Town Hall, Croft Street, Darwen,
BB3 1BQ.

Knott Street Community Centre, Darwen,
BB3 2RN.

PENDLE

VIC Outreach Service

WEDNESDAY

10am-1pm

Ace Centre, Cross Street, Nelson, BB9 7NN.

VIC – 01706 833180

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Outreach Worker John Clark

johnclark@veteransincommunities.org

Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell

darrenhorsnell@veteransincommunities.org

War Graves Project Co-ordinator Peter Webster

peterwebster@veteransincommunities.org

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)

Rossendale Citizens' Advice Bureau

0844 499 4121 (from a landline)

0300 456 2552 (from a mobile)

The Samaritans

01706 830999

Mental Health Helpline

0500 639000 Monday to Friday 7pm - 11pm

Saturday & Sunday 12 noon to 12 midnight

Royal Air Forces Association

01772 426930

East Lancashire Single Point of Access

via GP or self-referral

01282 657116

VIC supported by:



Want to help?

If you want to donate to support the work of Veterans In Communities please visit our website and click on the secure PayPal link

www.veteransincommunities.org

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