



# Painting leads to reunion

**WHEN veteran Steve Butterworth was asked to paint the First World War battleship HMS Euryalus he ended up reuniting a daughter with her father's former comrade.**

Steve presented his painting to The Fusilier Museum in Bury in time for the centenary celebrations of the Gallipoli Campaign.

Steve, a Falkland Islands navy veteran, is VIC's outreach worker in Rochdale, Heywood and Middleton, and he is also a member of the VIC art group along with Pat Rothwell.

Steve said: "I mentioned to Pat where I was going and she explained her father James Hart had been a Petty officer on the Second World War HMS Euryalus.

"It is unusual for a battleship to be affiliated with an army regiment but in the Gallipoli Campaign some of the crew from Euryalus rowed the soldiers to shore and then ended up fighting alongside them on the beaches.

"I took the picture to be signed by members of the HMS Euryalus Association and the oldest member, 91-year-old John Kay Scott, signed it. It was a great privilege.

"It turns out that John served on the light cruiser of the same name during the Second World War along with Pat's father and they got the chance to meet and Pat was invited to join the parade on Sunday as a family member."

Pat said: "I took along photographs and John remembered serving alongside my dad. I also showed them a brass plaque I have of the ship's crest.

"I got an invitation to South Shields to the commemorations, because that is the ship's adopted town."

When VIC held an art display and shop in Bury last summer, ex-Fusilier standard bearer Steve Fitt had a stand to promote the museum.

On seeing Steve's work he asked him to create a picture of the HMS Euryalus.

The first painting was raffled and raised £260 for the museum and the Fusiliers' Association; the second painting will be on permanent display in the museum.



## Emergency response

**VETERANS learned all about how the North West Ambulance Service respond to major incidents.**

Ten members of VIC visited the Hazardous Area Response Team (HART) in Trafford and saw the vast range of equipment used and the various roles the organisation undertakes when called out to



different incidents.

Many thanks to Ivy Limbrick for making arrangements and to Peter who gave us a guided tour.

# Art shop opens to support CCH

**ARTISTS will soon be able to get everything they need from paper to paints, pastels to pencils at a new shop being opened by Veterans In Communities.**

The charity, based in Haslingden, is planning to open a shop next month in Rawtenstall in the Positive Start building on Queen's Square gyratory.

Arts and crafts co-ordinator Darren Horsnell, a Falklands veteran who discovered the therapeutic properties of art while at Combat Stress, said: "The shop is to be called the Positive Art Shop and will hopefully open in June, once we finalise the lease.

"It will be a retail art shop selling a wide range of different materials and media and the shop will be manned by volunteers from VIC's art group.

"The volunteers will also be creating artwork in the shop while they are running it and will be available to discuss

their work with the shoppers.

"All the money that we raise will benefit the Creative Community Hub, which we received funding for from the Armed Forces Community Covenant.

"This will enable us to take our art out of the VIC Centre and into the community"

The shop plan would not have been possible without the help, support and partnership working between VIC and Positive Start. It is hoped the project will prove to be viable and sustainable and will benefit both charities.

It is planned to open the shop Thursdays to Saturdays 9am to 5pm and on Sundays from 10am to 2pm.

Monthly workshops will also be held in the shop so artists can learn new skills.

Although the Positive Art Shop is not a VIC outreach, veterans or their families calling will be signposted to the outreach facility nearest to where they live.



## Nomination for our Suzanne

**FORMER VIC employee Suzanne Preston was nominated in the Rossendale Woman of the Year competition.**

Here is her citation 'Suzanne has championed veterans across Rossendale both as a volunteer and more latterly as an employee of Veterans In Communities as an outreach and community development worker.

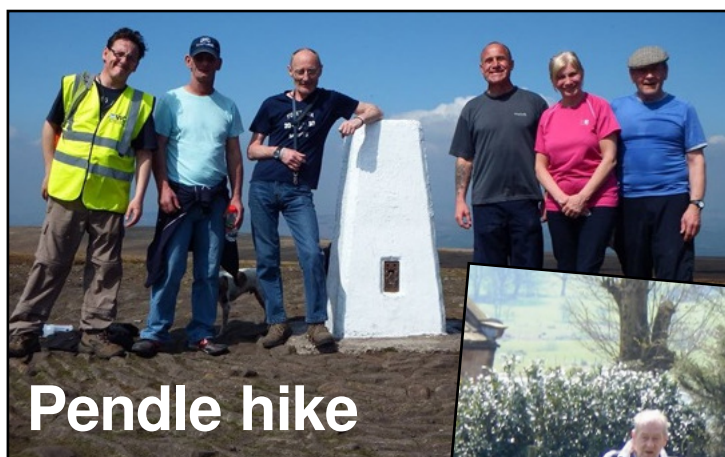
'In June 2014 she completed the Whitworth Skyline Walk to raise money for VIC.'

Although she didn't win, Suzanne was delighted to be nominated.

## VIP guests

**COMMUNITY trips were made by VIC members with the Prince's Trust to the World Cultures gallery at World Museum in Liverpool and Skipton Castle.**

VIC was invited as VIP guests after helping with Prince's Trust projects.



## Pendle hike

TWO routes up Pendle Hill were undertaken by VIC members as our walks now cater for all abilities, where possible.

When they got to the top, and en route, the walkers were treated to beautiful scenery.

The next walk will be to Dovestones Reservoir on Saddleworth Moor.



## Crew Van's Capers

WHERE has Crew Van has been this month...

- Crew Van spent a lot of time helping Darren to prepare for opening the shop visiting locations, including Halifax, to collect stock;

- It took veterans to the National Arboretum in Staffordshire for a poignant visit;

- Crew Van also took VIC members to the Rossendale Players' production Early One Morning;

- Members of VIC's Singing Group were transported to Helmcroft Court in Helmsshore;

- Crew Van helped take members to and from activities held all over Lancashire;

- It was seen in Colne at David Fishwick's Minibus Sales where we are completing a painting job.

**Give us a wave if you see Crew Van in your area.**



# Time to reflect

**A POIGNANT trip was made to the National Arboretum when veterans spent the day reflecting on comrades lost.**

Manager Bob Elliott said: "Members have asked about visiting the arboretum for the last two years and now we have the Crew Van we were able to offer the opportunity.

"We had 14 veterans make the trip and it was a great opportunity for them to reflect and also have some personal time in what is a very tranquil place.

"What we found particu-



larly eerie was the amount of names of servicemen and women who have died since the Second World War.

"There is hardly any space left and, if there is another conflict, there will be very little space left on the memorial to inscribe any more names."

On returning to Rossendale, the veterans also went to a special charity night production of Early

One Morning – a First World War true story being staged in Waterfoot by Rossendale Players.

Bob said: "While we were at the arboretum we visited the memorial to those who had been shot at dawn, and that is what the play we went to see was all about.

"We are grateful to Rossendale Players for raising nearly £83 through the performance and a raffle."

## Review

### Early One Morning Rossendale Players

For anyone who has read Private Peaceful, this play is of a similar ilk with the story detailing Private Jim Smith's background and how he came to be on the front line.

His post traumatic stress disorder was obvious for all to see, but not understood in those days making the inevitable ending so desperately sad.

It was staged with compassion, empathy and understanding, and the subtle hints of humour lightened what could have been a very dark play.

Well done Rossendale Players and full marks to Daniel Starkie for his moving portrayal as Jim Smith.

It was lovely that the writer of the play Les Smith was also able to be in the audience.

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## Singing and dancing group

**OUR singing group delighted residents of Helmcroft Court in Helmshore when we not only sang and entertained we also joined in the May Pole Dancing.**

For shoppers going to Tesco Haslingden they can sing-a-long-a-ship on Saturday May 30 as the singing group will be entertaining, raising funds and awareness.

We are seeking a volunteer pianist who can provide musical



accompaniment to the group on a Thursday evening from 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

Contact musical director Peter Webster on 01706 833180 or 07423326844.



## Digging for VIC

OUR Dig for VIC project is really taking root as we have planted vegetables, fruit and flowers and the workshop is almost ready for the tools.

VIC had a stand at a special celebration event at Turf Moor, Burnley, which showcased projects, such as ours, that received social procurement grants from the East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group, administered by the the Burnley Pendle and Rossendale CVS.



## Dementia group begins

A NEW Dementia Group for veterans and their families living in East Lancashire starts at the VIC Centre on Wednesday May 20.

The sessions are being run by the Admiral Nurses from The Royal British Legion and will be held on the third Wednesday of every month up to Christmas.

Contact either the VIC office on 01706 833180 or Zoe the Admiral Nurse on 07584 508620 for more information.

## Photography masterclass

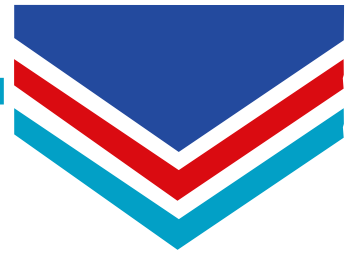
PROFESSIONAL photographer Liz Henson is holding a photography workshop on Monday May 18.

The Creative Community Hub has organised the event, which will be held in the conference room starting at 10.30am.

There is a £5 fee for the day and tea and coffee will be provided but you will need a packed lunch. Contact Darren for more information 01706 833180.

## Good to talk

THE latest round of Health Chats will be held at Fast Forward Cafe, Champness Hall, Drake Street, Rochdale OL16 1PB. on Wednesday May 20 from 9.30am to 2pm.



## ROSSENDALE

### Outreach Services

#### MONDAY-FRIDAY

11am-1pm  
VIC Centre, Bury Road, Haslingden,  
BB4 5PL.

#### WEDNESDAY

10-12 noon  
Central Methodist Church, Burnley Road,  
Bacup, OL13 9AH.

### Singing Group

#### THURSDAY

6.30-8.30pm  
VIC Centre, Bury Road, Haslingden,  
BB4 5PL.

### Art Group and drop-in

#### FRIDAY

11am-3pm VIC Centre, Bury Road,  
Haslingden, BB4 5PL.

### Walking Group

Walks will be held on the 2nd and 4th  
**Thursdays**. Weather permitting.

## HEYWOOD, MIDDLETON AND ROCHDALE

### Outreach Service

#### WEDNESDAY - second, third and fourth weeks only

10.30am-12.30pm  
Fast Forward Cafe, Champness Hall,  
Drake Street, Rochdale OL16 1PB.

#### WEDNESDAY - every week

11.30am-1.30

Lighthouse Project, Warwick Mill,  
Middleton M24 1AZ

### Walking Group

Walks will be held on the 2nd and 4th  
**Thursdays** and are combined with the  
Rossendale walking group.

## PENDLE

### Outreach Service

#### TUESDAY

10am-noon  
Railway Street Community Centre,  
Railway Street, Nelson, BB9 9EH.

## VIC – 01706 833180

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### Volunteer Outreach Worker Tony Stubbs

tonystubbs@veteransincommunities.org

### Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell

darrenhorsnell@veteransincommunities.org

### Volunteer Outreach Worker and Music 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 Mon to Fri 7pm - 11pm Sat  
& Sun 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 update...

### THE next month is going to be an extremely busy time for VIC.

As well as loads going on in the centre, VIC members will be out and about at a variety of events.

We have an inclusive family day planned at Pendle View Fisheries... fishing, walking and a barbecue.

We have been invited by Rossendale School to attend a dedication and thanksgiving service at Newchurch Methodist Church.

For the first time we will be holding an awareness raising stall in Ramsbottom at St Paul's Church for the War Weekend held by the East Lancashire Railway.

At the end of June you will see VIC in the Bacup and Stacksteads Carnival. We will have a stall in Moorlands Park and the VIC Singing Group will also be on the stage at 3pm.

We have a few places left on The Royal British Legion caseworker training session to be held at the VIC Centre on June 29 and 30. Anyone interested needs an email address, be computer literate and be willing to become a volunteer for The RBL. For more information email Bob at bobelliott@veteransincommunities.org

## 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](http://www.veteransincommunities.org)

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