



VIC Newsletter



Respect

MEMBERS paid their respects at Remembrance services all over Rosendale and also in the Falkland Islands.

VIC outreach worker Steve Butterworth returned to the islands for the second time since he served in the Falklands Conflict.

As well as marching in the parade, Steve laid a wreath at the

Cenotaph in Port Stanley on behalf of comrades from The Intrepid.

Members attended services in Haslingden, Bacup, Stacksteads, Ramsbottom, Whitworth and Rawtenstall.

In Haslingden, on Remembrance Sunday, veterans attended the service at the Cenotaph where outreach worker Tony Stubbs

laid a wreath, while Alan Willetts was in charge of the flag.

The parade marched back to the VIC Centre where refreshments were served.

In Stacksteads, VIC members joined residents and school children for a service at the memorial on Newchurch Road.

The VIC Singing Group also sang during the Remembrance ceremony in Stacksteads and took part in the Festival of Remembrance Service at St James Church, Haslingden.

On Armistice Day, a short service was held at the Cenotaph

in Haslingden when Alan Willetts delivered the exhortation.

More than 30 people observed the two minute silence at 11am at the Cenotaph.

Project manager Bob Elliott lowered the Union Jack as a mark of respect.



VIC Art Exhibition

paintings
poetry
prints

November 21 to February 6

Touchstones Art Gallery
The Esplanade, Rochdale OL16 1AQ



Military Medal winner honoured

THE family of a Military Medal winner who fought in the First World War have thanked veterans for making sure his grave is properly marked.

VIC has been carrying out a Heritage Lottery funded project in Bacup Cemetery for the past 16 months to have the graves of soldiers properly recognised.

On reading about the project, Fran Connolly, from Waterfoot, contacted us to ask if his great uncle Joseph Connolly could also be remembered with a memorial stone.

Manager Bob Elliott tasked four members of VIC to carry out research and they found that Joseph had two service numbers causing confusion.

Joseph served from 1914 to 1920 and after enlisting in Haslingden on November 14 when he joined the 5th Battalion East Lancashire

Regiment. Private Connolly trained at Southport was sent to Egypt in July 1915 as a replacement for casualties the Battalion suffered during the Gallipoli landings where he was slightly wounded. The Battalion returned to Egypt and they transferred to the Western front in February 1917.

It is believed he was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in 1917 during either the battle of Passechendale or on the Somme at the battle of the Hindenburg Line when he took an enemy machine gun and company.

He was severely wounded in the back, left thigh and right leg in 1918 and was detained in Leaf Square Military Hospital until 1920 when he was discharged.

He returned to Rossendale and to his work as a footwear operative at J H Hirst, Whitewell



Bottom, but an accident at work resulted in his death.

Fran said: "He was my Grandad's brother and I have heard stories about him over the years and my father would occasionally mention him.

"I am very proud of the stone and feel it was a worthwhile thing to do and am grateful to VIC for the work they have done.

"It is a century since the First World War and it is appropriate that we remember the sacrifice these people made. This is just the sort of project lottery should be used."

VIC used local historian Wendy Lord's book 'Where Heroes Rest' and information from Rossendale Borough Council and the Commonwealth War Graves to complete War Graves 100, in total 137 stones have been laid.



Crew Van's Capers

WHERE has Crew Van been this month...?

- It took VIC members to Bacup Cemetery to meet BBC Radio Lancashire for a live broadcast;

- Members used Crew Van to travel to a walk in Clitheroe;

- It helped us with a community project being carried out in Heywood;

- When we collected at Burnley's Turf Moor, Crew Van provided the transport;

- It took a crew to work on the grave project in Rising Bridge.

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

The Festival of Remembrance Concert was a splendid event and the feedback from people who attended has been very enthusiastic.

Everyone has said how they enjoyed the music from the band and the singing groups singing. People enjoyed it so much they want a repeat performance next year in Haslingden!

Marilyn Proctor
Mayor of Rossendale



November walks

WALKERS completed a circular four-mile walk from Brungerley Bridge to Grindleton Bridge, Clitheroe.

A social inclusion trip is to be held on Thursday November 19 when members

will be crossing the border to visit the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield.

Of particular note is a display of poppies, which were previously installed at the Tower of London.

Sing while you shop

SHOPPERS at Asda in Rawtenstall were treated to a performance by the VIC Singing Group while they shopped.

VIC members were in store on November 14 to sing, raise awareness and funds.

The singing group also entertained at Helmcroft Court, Haslingden, and VIC received a £1,000 cheque raised through various fundraising events.





Project takes shape

Workshop

ANOTHER successful workshop has been held to instruct artists in how to paint in the style of Bob Ross.

The fourth session will be on Saturday November 28 at our Positive Art shop in Rawtenstall at 11am.

The classes cost £25 for VIC members and £35 for non-members.

All materials are supplied and, by the end of the day, participants will be able to take home a winter scene that they have created.

A packed lunch is advisable, but tea and coffee will be supplied.

Turf Moor

A BUMPER £422 was collected at the home game of Burnley V Huddersfield at Turf Moor.

A big thank you to VIC members who helped on the day: Joe, Jimmy, Derek, Graham, Bob, Thomas, Liz and Degs and a special thanks to Ivy for collecting and making the arrangements.

Tai chi

WEEKLY tai chi sessions have started provided by Lighthouse Tai Chi.

Sessions are held every Tuesday from 2pm and anyone interested should just attend the VIC Centre in Bury Road, Haslingden.

Vets group

A NEW Facebook group has been launched called Veterans Past and Present and all veterans can apply to join.

THE NHS pilot project in Greater Manchester, which VIC is assisting with, is moving on apace.

VIC is now seeking to appoint a project worker for the Overcoming Barriers to Mental Health Services scheme.

A number of community reporters are also being sought by Inspiration NW, another of the partners in the project.

Community reporters are people who belong to the Institute of Community Reporters and have been trained to interview and collect stories from their communities.

The training is over four days and will take place on November 29 and 30 and December 3 and 4. Veterans who want to put their names forward for training will need to fulfil the following criteria:

- be unemployed and looking to move into employment;
- be able to attend training and willing to travel at peak times to and from the venue (the venue will be within Greater Manchester and travel expenses will be paid);
- be willing to undertake interviews within and beyond their

local community;

- have basic IT skills - able to use email and a mobile telephone.

To find out more contact janet@inspirationnw.co.uk

A text campaign has also been launched to gather feedback from veterans and their families.

Anyone interested in the health and wellbeing of ex-service personnel will get the chance to contribute to research that will be used to develop services, simply by replying to a series of text messages.

Janet Butterworth, Director of Inspiration NW, explained: "We know that some of the best insight and ideas come from people who may not usually put themselves forward to contribute in other ways. Using text messages to gather feedback is quick, easy, anonymous and low cost or cost-free for most people."

People can 'opt in' to the campaign by texting 'in' to 60013. They will then be sent two initial messages to respond to. There will be no cost for receiving the texts, and replies will be charged at the same rate as a standard text message.

Fishing trip

PLACES are filling up fast for a fishing trip on Friday November 20 at Rising Fisheries, Fence.

The cost for the day will be £8, to cover the cost of the peg and transport. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come - first served basis. Contact 01706 833180.

Free meal

TWENTY veterans will be enjoying a free meal thanks to The Whittaker Arms in Accrington.

The pub, on Burnley Road, contacted VIC to offer 20 veterans a free meal on Monday December 7 and Ivy Limbrick is arranging the event.

Festive treat

OUR Christmas meal will be held at the Game Cock Inn in Great Harwood, on Wednesday December 16 at 1pm.

The carvery meal costs £8.99, must be booked in advance and a deposit of £5 is required. For the menu, and to book places, email ivylimbrick@veteransincommunities.org

Art on show

ARTISTS from VIC will again be displaying their art at the Salford Breakfast Club, but this time for a week.

A successful one day exhibition was held at St Thomas's Church, Pendleton, and the members and the vicar were so impressed they invited VIC back to stage a week-long exhibition next month.



OUR First World War graves project with AccRoss College students at St John's Church, Stonefold.





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. Tel: 01706 833180

Tai Chi
TUESDAY

2pm
VIC Centre, Bury Road, Haslingden,
BB4 5PL

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

**Business Development and Administrative
Executive Liz Hamilton**

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07961 554 006

Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth

stevebutterworth@veteransincommunities.org

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
03444 889 622
Mon-Fri 10am-4pm

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

Positive

One Stop Art Shop



VIC has its own arts and crafts
shop based at 4 Bury Road,
Rawtenstall, BB4 6AA near the
junction with Bacup Road.

Opening times

Thursday 10am-5pm
Friday 10am-5pm
Saturday 10am-5pm
Sunday 11am-3pm

Tel: 07437874696

positiveart@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

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