



# VIC Newsletter

## Lest we forget



**MEMBERS of VIC paid their respects to the fallen at services all over East Lancashire, Greater Manchester and in London.**

The Sandbag Café in Preston, a joint enterprise between VIC and Lancashire Armed Forces Association, featured on Granada Reports and D-Day East Lancashire Regiment veteran Richard Brock was interviewed by the BBC.



Wreaths were laid in Accrington, Haslingden and Rawtenstall by VIC members Phil Speddy and Bob Brindley.

Veteran Duncan Phillips and Von laid the wreath in Clitheroe, while Ron Flowers and Geof were at St Lawrence Church where their Regiment Chapel is.

In Bacup, press officer Catherine Smyth, RAF veteran Bernard Tighe and others were in attendance, while on Armistice Day Phil, Bob and Catherine joined pupils from Northern

Primary School at what is reputed to be the highest war memorial in England on Deerplay Moor above Weir.

Administrator Amy Thompson, who is also the Lancashire Royal British Legion standard bearer, was again invited to take part in the Festival of Remembrance event at the Royal Albert Hall in London.

While, Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth attended the Bury and Ramsbottom Remembrance Services.

As well as organising the 135 crosses to the First World War soldiers at Bacup Cemetery, veteran Bill Ogden, Bernard and Catherine also held a short ceremony and laid a wreath.

The VIC Choir visited Jubilee Court Haslingden to share in their Remembrance Celebrations singing a selection of 20 songs and they received personal donations from the residents totalling £40.

We remembered them.



## Ring of Red

**THOUSANDS of bikers gathered in horrendous weather to mark Remembrance Sunday by encircling the M60 motorway and raising money for VIC.**

As the chosen charity for this year's Ring of Red M60 (Manchester), VIC was honoured to be able to run a stall at Birch Services as the bikers gathered.

This year, several members of VIC



were able to complete the ride on their own bikes.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott,

Volunteer Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell and Graham Limb, Willie and Sam in the van

and others attended along with friends from the Throttle Twisters Motor Cycle Club.

Bob said: "The Throttle Twisters had also been at Royton Remembers. Willie and Sam brought the van and did the route following the bikes.

"From the stall, which sold items made at VIC as well as donations, we raised £500. We will also receive a contribution from the organisers early in the New Year."

There were 2,500 bikes in attendance and most of the bikers were wearing red.





# Walk of Remembrance



Day 1

**VETERAN Phil Speddy's 60-mile Remembrance walk came full circle when he joined primary pupils in Weir on Armistice Day.**

He paid his respects at 61 different memorials in Rossendale, slept outdoors for five nights and raised more than £1,500 for VIC.

Every day, the Royal Pioneer Corps veteran was joined on his walk by Royal Signals veteran Bob Brindley and when Phil was finding the going tough, Bob ensured he kept going.

They both went on a Battlefields Tour with VIC in September and sat together in the minibus, so had already forged a friendship.

The memorial tour started at 7am in Weir on November 5 when the remote hilltop memorial was shrouded in mist, barely visible from the roadside and eerily silent.

Bob said: "The weather that day added to the atmosphere of what we were doing and it made us focus on what we were embarking on."

That first day was the hardest as, along with Royal Signals Veteran Bill Ogden, the trio completed 14 miles walking from Weir to Whitworth with Phil carrying a full pack complete with rations, tent and sleeping bag.

Reflecting on the week, Phil said: "After a couple of days and nights out, I was really feeling it and walking down towards Rawtenstall; the weather was not brilliant.

"Those were the times that Bob stepped in and would be encouraging saying the next memorial was only just up the



Day 2



Day 3



Day 4



Day 5



Day 7

hill."

They were constantly being stopped by people donating money to the charity. On day one a high school student gave them 50p, and apologised that it was all he had.

In Stubbins, Phil and Bob were stunned when a business owner handed over £230 in cash – and when they called in at the company Melba Swintex they received a further £40 from reception.

Bob said: "I will never forget the generosity, the warmth and the sense of community."

They were joined by another VIC Veteran Michael Leather, AKA Mini.

He had just completed a marathon for the charity and ran from home to join them, only for Phil to realise they lived on the same road.

At the memorial in Stubbins, a guy who was doing cable work came across to make a contribution and said how his cousin had been killed in Afghanistan and he had been given a wonderful send off by the army, Mini had been in the same regiment and knew him.

On Friday Veteran Willie Wilcox joined the walk and also



Day 6

slept over which Phil said lightened the evening having some company.

On Remembrance Sunday Phil and Bob walked to services in Accrington, Haslingden and Rawtenstall where they also met with Squirrels and Beavers from 38th Rossendale Open Scout Group who had made the crosses that had been placed by Phil.

He said: "Thanks to the Rossendale Family History Society for mapping out the memorials, which provided the starting point for the walk."

VIC provided daily support and many veterans joined him along the journey.





# ITV films art group

**A FILM crew from ITV called at the VIC Centre to capture our artists at work for a carol concert.**

They interviewed members of the art group for 'Christmas Carols on ITV' which will be filmed at St Elisabeth's Church in Reddish and broadcast in December.

The VIC Choir has also been invited to sing at the concert.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "The theme this year



is around D-Day 80, we are one of three films that will be shown during the carol concert."

When VIC was approached, Bob sent a link to the Stories In

Transition film which was co-produced by VIC and Anglia Ruskin University, so they had already seen the mural and the work being done by the art group.

The film crew was also filming a D-Day veteran at the Veteran Care Village Broughton House in Salford and at the Imperial War Museum in Salford.

## RIP Brian Burrows

**THE VIC Standard was on parade and veterans formed a guard of honour for the final farewell to VIC member Brian Burrows.**



RAF veteran Brian, 92, served as an RAF Policeman aka Snowdrops.

His funeral was on November 12 at Accrington Crematorium.

The VIC minibus took veterans to the service.

## VIC artists exhibit at The Lowry

**FOR some years VIC has had a link with Sue Brodie and last year she founded The STARTS Award.**

This is a creative skills development programme for the armed forces community and their families and includes art as well as performance poetry and prose.

Sue approached VIC Volunteer Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell about entering a painting for a competition and he sent in a landscape of a fishing lake.

His work was picked as the best by independent judges



and that led to Darren being offered space in an exhibition at The Lowry Hotel until mid-November.

Darren has had a lot deal with of late, but he agreed to provide a painting.

As a thank you, Sue has

now offered Darren space in the Lowry Theatre for a future exhibition of the work of artists from VIC's art group.

One of the artists who will be exhibiting is Jenny who is also a member of the VIC Choir.

Darren said: "She first came to the art group 14 to 15 months ago, when she couldn't draw, now she is really good. To see her face when I said her work was going to be exhibited just blew my mind."



## Hamper

**A FABULOUS Luxury Christmas Hamper has been created by our friends at The Chubby Duck café in Rawtenstall.**

Tickets are £1.50 a ticket or £5 for a strip and the draw will take place on Friday December 20 at a Quiz Night. All proceeds will be donated to the VIC.

## Pension

**VETERANS who served after April 1975, and are aged over 60, could have an Armed Forces Pension if they served for two years or more.**

The pension is not paid automatically. Contact VIC on 01706 833180 and for help with applications.

To apply you will need to know your National Insurance number and Service number.



## Seven join Bob Ross Class

**SEVEN people, including a 12-year-old girl attended the latest painting in the style of Bob Ross.**

Volunteer Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell said: "The subject of the Bob Ross class was difficult as it was a boat on a lake, but

everyone did really well."

He was shocked when two of the regulars Debbie and Karl Faulkner, from Cumbria, presented him with a special Bob Ross T shirt they had bought in Florida.

Darren said: "The T-shirt is brilliant."



## ROSSENDALE

Activities at the VIC Centre, Bury Road, Haslingden, BB4 5PL, unless otherwise stated.

### Outreach Service

**MONDAY-FRIDAY**

9am-4.30pm

For a home appointment call 01706 833180

**MONDAY**

### Crafty Chatters

10am-12 noon

**TUESDAY**

### Art Group

10am-3.30pm

Cost £6 places limited book on

01706 833180

**WEDNESDAY**

### Allotment

Help on the allotment in Holcombe Road, Helmshore. Contact 01706 833180

**THURSDAY**

### Greggs RV

1pm-3pm

**THURSDAY**

### VIC Choir (weekly)

6.30-8.30pm

**FRIDAY**

### Art Group

10am-3.30pm

Cost £6 places limited book on

01706 833180

**SUNDAY**

### Drop-in

10.15am-12.30pm

**SECOND SATURDAY IN THE MONTH**

### Rossendale Armed Forces and Veterans' Breakfast Club

10am-12.30pm

Haslingden Community Link Cafe, Bury Road, Haslingden BB4 5PG (book in advance)

**EVERY MONTH**

### Painting in the Style of Bob Ross art classes

Contact Darren 01706 833180

### Walking Groups/ Social Inclusion trips

see Facebook or website for details

## RIBBLE VALLEY & PRESTON

**TUESDAYS**

### Redoubt Coffee Morning and Outreach

10am-noon

Trinity Methodist Church, Wesleyan Row,

Parson Lane, Clitheroe, BB7 2JY.

### Sandbag Cafe

10am-12.30pm

St George's Church, off Lune Street, Preston PR1 2NP. This is a joint session with Lancashire Armed Forces Association.

## VIC – 01706 833180

Chief Executive Amanda Walton

amandawalton@vic.org.uk

Operations Manager Bob Elliott

bobelliott@vic.org.uk 07961 554 006

Administrator Amy Thompson

amythompson@vic.org.uk

Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth

stevebutterworth@vic.org.uk

Project Worker Ray Sharkey

raysharkey@vic.org.uk 07741 902 188

Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren

Horsnell

darrenhorsnell@vic.org.uk

VIC Choir Bookings Barry Hyde

barryhyde@vic.org.uk

### Veterans at risk of homelessness

or organisations working with them are encouraged to contact OP FORTITUDE

0800 952 0774 or visit [riv.org.uk/opfortitude](http://riv.org.uk/opfortitude)

### Combat Stress Helpline

0800 138 1619

### NHS Military Veterans Psychological Therapies Service (NW)

0300 323 0707

### The Royal British Legion

0808 802 8080 7 days a week 8am-8pm

### SSAFA

email [Lancashire@ssafa.org.uk](mailto:Lancashire@ssafa.org.uk)

01772 260 462

### Citizens Advice East Lancashire

0808 278 7975 freephone Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

### The Samaritans

01282 694929 Mon to Fri 9am-9pm

Freephone 116 123

### Op Courage

0300 373 3332 email

opcourageNORTH@cntw.nhs.uk

### Veterans UK Free Helpline

0808 1914 218

### East Lancashire Single Point of Access via

GP or self-referral

0800 0130 707

### Armed Forces Support Group

01282 613132

## BURNLEY AND PENDLE

### Outreach Service

**MONDAY**

9.30am- 11.30am

Breakfast Club at Burnley Miners' Social Club, Plumbe Street, Burnley, BB11 3AA.

Contact 01706 833180 for dates of outreach at: Burnley FC in the Community; Pendle Armed Forces Support Group, Holmefield House, Gisburn Road, Barrowford; Morrisons in Nelson and Asda in Colne.

## HEYWOOD, MIDDLETON AND ROCHDALE

### VIC Outreach

**TUESDAY**

### The Mess Tin - cafe and drop-in

1pm-2.30pm

The Lighthouse Project, Middleton Shopping Centre, M24 1AB.

**THURSDAY**

### Rochdale Veterans' Breakfast Club and VIC Outreach

9am Flying Horse Hotel, Packer Street, Rochdale, OL16 1NJ.

## HYNDBURN

### Outreach / Drop-In/ Model Railway Club

**FRIDAY** 10am-3pm

VIC Hyndburn, Accrington Arndale Centre, BB5 1EX.

### Accrington Stanley Breakfast Club/ Drop-In

**LAST SATURDAY EVERY MONTH**

10.30am-noon

Stanley Sports Hub, Thorneyholme Road, Accrington, BB5 6BD.

## BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN

### Veterans' football

**MONDAY** 8-9pm

Blackburn Rovers Indoor Centre, Ewood Park, Blackburn BB2 4JF. A cost applies.

### Outreach Service

**TUESDAY** 10am-noon

Rovers Breakfast Hub, Legends Lounge, Darwen End, Blackburn Rovers FC, Ewood Park, Blackburn, BB2 4JF.

Contact Chris McGrail 07787 585109

Want to help?

To support VIC scan this QR code



VIC supported by:



Find us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)  
VIC Veterans In Communities