



Pop-up shop a huge hit

VIC's pop-up art shop in Bury proved a huge success attracting more visitors than last year and sales soared by 50 per cent.

Many people had read about the shop through an article in the Bury Times and several recalled seeing the team last year.

Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell said: "At first we were a bit apprehensive because we did not think the shop was in as good a location as the one we had in Mill Gate last year, yet we got more people in."

"Over the 10 days we had 3,119 visitors and we had people who remembered us from last year. They then returned with their family members."

"We sold 13 original paintings and 11 prints and various craft items ranging from clocks to a clay rugby ball made by Alan Taylor."

The regular Friday painting club was also relocated into the shopping centre for one day and it proved a huge hit with Liz Taylor selling the painting she was working on, and a print of the painting before she had even finished it.

It was also successful for Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth who was commissioned to paint two dogs.

Darren said: "In all, people got five commissions and Steve had to turn some work away because there was too much; I was also commissioned to paint a dog."

"One lady came in and fell

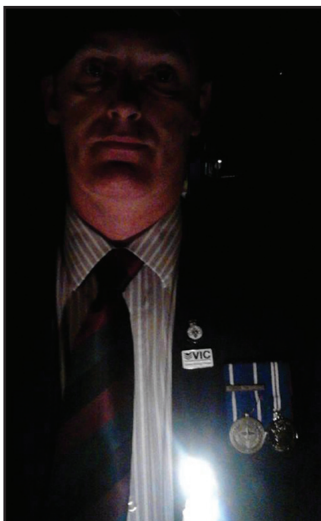
in love with a painting of a lion I had done and while she was buying it said she would love to meet the artist, not realising that was me!"

REME veteran James Bateman was invited to display his artwork in the shop in addition to artists from learning disabilities' charity Bury Gateway. As a result of their display Gateway got a new volunteer.

VIC member Julie Cunningham, who has been helping with the War Graves 100 project, also brought along her teenage daughter Malory who used VIC's mascot orang-utan Ori to 'talk' to children.

Darren added: "It was a huge success for everyone."





ALL went dark as members of VIC Darwen Outreach joined in the 'lights out' commemoration for the start of the First World War. For an hour, all electric lights were extinguished and just a single candle was used for illumination.



Musical treat

Centre opens

THANKS to the hard work of VIC volunteers the High Level Cafe has now opened in Rochdale.

A team from VIC dismantled equipment in a children's play area in Champness Hall last year because it was no longer health and safety compliant.

Now the building has reopened as a community hall run by High Level, a drug and alcohol service which operates in the Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale areas.

VIC is looking to work in partnership with the group in the future.

CUSTOMERS in Asda were treated to music while they shopped at the first official engagement for the VIC Singing Group.

The Rawtenstall store invited the group to entertain customers and there was such a terrific response, VIC will be singing again on Thursday December 18.

Tesco in Haslingden has also invited the singing group to entertain shoppers on Friday December 19 so the choir is busy learning a selection of seasonal carols for their audience.

Musical director Peter Webster said: "I would like to say well done to the VIC Singing Group on its very first public engagement. They were fantastic, they sang brilliantly.

"The Asda staff and shoppers really enjoyed the entertainment and the feedback is still coming in.

"It was the first time the group performed the core song in public and we got a repeat booking."

The group will also be performing as the Mayor's guests at the prestigious Festival of Remembrance in November at The Riverside in Whitworth.

Still time for raffle

DON'T miss the chance of winning a superb prize in the VIC charity raffle.

Tickets were sold at the pop-up art shop in Bury raising a splendid £423 and the draw will take place at the end of August.

Prizes include a Wigan Warriors signed shirt, an autographed snooker cue and signed Steve Davis photograph leaving 'I'm A Celebrity'.

For tickets contact the Green Squirrel pub in Haslingden 01706 216427.

Training courses

A FURTHER 26 people have completed an ASIST suicide intervention course held at the VIC Centre.

Participants included police officers and members of Inspire, the drug and alcohol service.

Two more SafeTalk courses are planned for the near future.

For more information contact 01706 833180.

Drop in

AN advice and drop in session is now available every Monday at the VIC Centre

The Council for Voluntary Service has arranged the sessions on Mondays from 10.30 - 12.30pm and anyone who needs to speak an advisor can just call in; there is no need to book in advance.



Success of Darwen outreach boosts community spirit

OUTREACH work in Darwen as hit the ground running with nearly 20 veterans attending sessions and several community projects on the go already.

In just six months, the service has developed and evolved to meet the needs and demands of its users – veterans of all ages.

Veteran John Clark became aware of the service in late March and now works alongside Patrick O'Reilly as an Outreach Worker.

The outreach was initially set up in Darwen Town Hall but as the need grew, John was able to secure use of the community centre on Knott Street, which is where group work is now carried out. One-to-one sessions are still held at the town hall. All sessions run between 10am and 1pm on Tuesdays.

John said: "Darwen is a very close knit community. Having use of the community centre gives the veterans a sense of purpose and they feel like they have somewhere to go. It means they are not just sitting at home on their own.

"At the centre there is a kitchen, access to an Xbox, computers, a pool table and table tennis."

The community centre has funding to create a First World War project in gardens at the side of the centre and members



of the VIC outreach project will be involved in the work.

When the residents of Beckett Street needed their overgrown raised beds clearing and sorting members of VIC assisted and as a result it is now back in use with residents planting and maintaining the area.

A further community project involves The Dingle Community Fishing Group at Sunnyhurst Woods. VIC hopes to work with schools to create a veterans and community garden on the former bowling green and also installing new pathways and a disabled access though the woodland. The local Prince's

Trust, organised by

Lancashire Fire and Rescue, raised money and invited veterans to accompany them on a free trip to the Imperial War Museum in Manchester.

John was in the 1st Royal Tank Regiment in 1989 joining up when he was just 18. He served in Cyprus and Germany, and struggled with transition when he returned to his home town in 1994.

He is looking to expand the VIC outreach into walks and also hopes to set up evening sessions so veterans in work will be able to access the service.

The team will be involved in developing the land at the rear of the VIC Centre in Haslingden. The Dig-In project secured a Social Prescribing grant last month.





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.

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- 1pm

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 update

WE WERE delighted with the success of our second pop-up shop in Bury and it was particularly nice to see people coming back who had met us last year and remembered VIC running the shop.

The shop raises so much awareness into the work of VIC as well as raising some funds for the organisation.

Our War Graves 100 project is coming on well and now in Bacup Cemetery we have been able to mark the graves of many of those soldiers who so bravely fought in the First World War.

To keep up-to-date with the progress of this fantastic project please log on to our website www.veteransincommunities.org and click on the link to World War One – Bacup Cemetery.

We were fortunate to have help from young volunteers involved in the Prince's Trust and we also have volunteers working in the cemetery several times a week. All of the graves will hopefully have stones in place by the end of September.

VIC also supported the excellent work of veteran Brian Pickup who completed a static 100 mile bike ride at Asda to raise money for the Remembrance Day Parade in Rawtenstall. It was a sterling effort and one we were proud to be associated with.

Next month we will once again be providing volunteer marshals for the annual 18-mile Round the Hills walk in Rossendale and we may also have a few hardy VIC members taking part.

Contacts

VIC – 01706 833180

Manager Bob Elliott

bobelliott@veteransincommunities.org

07961 554 006

Outreach and Community Development

Worker Suzanne Preston

suzannepreston@veteransincommunities.org

Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth

stevebutterworth@veteransincommunities.org

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:

