

Art shop opens

FALKLANDS veteran Darren Horsnell, who discovered art was better than medication, has opened an arts and crafts shop in Rawtenstall for VIC.

Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren discovered the therapeutic properties of art while he was recuperating at Combat Stress after serving in the Falklands Conflict.

He has been running art classes at VIC Centre in Bury Road and also, through the Creative Community Hub, at Jubilee Court in Haslingden.

Several residents from Jubilee Court attended the shop's opening.

Darren said: "This all stems from when I first started art therapy and I realised what art can do for you and how much therapy you can

Positive 
One Stop Art Shop

get out of it.

"It took me two years before I went along to art therapy and then when I did I couldn't believe how it affected me.

"I would open up while I was painting and I started to talk about my experiences through my art, not verbal.

"Then I started getting people coming to me asking me for advice and it gave me a buzz. It is better than any medication."

Darren, along with volunteers from the arts and crafts group at VIC, will be manning the shop. It is also planned to run workshops in the future.

The shop was officially opened by the Mayor of



Rossendale Councillor Marilyn Procter who said: "I think it is splendid. The art work for sale is of a really, really high quality. The time and effort people have put in here is fantastic."

The shop will be open Thursdays to Saturdays 9am

to 5pm and on Sundays from 10am to 2pm and stocks a wide range of arts and crafts items.

The shop is a partnership between VIC and Rossendale charity Positive Start which owns the building in Bury Road.



ROSSENDALE MP Jake Berry called in to the centre to carry out the legal work on the lease for the Positive Start building in Rawtenstall where our Positive Art shop has just been opened.

AWARENESS of the work of VIC was raised when we held a two-day information stand as part of a 1940s weekend on the East Lancashire Railway.

Our stand was based in Ramsbottom and many people stopped by to find out more about our work.

1940s weekend



Outdoor activities on track



THREE weeks of graft saw VIC members helping Al Shingler from Alternate Forces to transform the old Sea Cadets building at Hollingworth Lake, Littleborough.

Alternate Forces has recently been awarded some MoD funding and VIC members have been helping to get the building ready for opening.

VIC is planning to work closely with Alternate Forces for some of our outdoor activities over the summer including: kayaking, bushcraft, mountain bike riding and navigation courses.





Royal appointment for Ronnie



VIC Chairman Ronnie Barker received his MBE from Prince William in a prestigious ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

Ronnie was named in the Queen's New Year's Honours List for his services to the community.

Ronnie said: "It was a great honour and a great shock when I was notified of the award and being invited to visit London to receive the award from Prince William was an amazing experience not just for me but also for my wife Carole and son Simon.

"Unfortunately, our daughter Sanchia could not get time off in Florence to take up her invitation to the palace.

"It was a once in a lifetime experience that can never be surpassed.

"I am truly humbled in the knowledge that the people of Rossendale felt me worthy of such an honour."



Crew Van's Capers

WHERE has Crew Van been this month...?

- It transported VIC members to the poignant ceremony at Rossendale School to remember the fallen from two World Wars;

- Crew Van was used to take veterans to Saddleworth for the walk near Dovestones Reservoir;

- Members of VIC's Singing Group were able to attend a sing-a-long-a-shop at Tesco thanks to Crew Van and it also transported them to Edenfield Fete;

- Crew Van has been invaluable for collecting items that will be sold in our new art shop in Rawtenstall;

- We used the Crew Van to travel to Barrow for the social inclusion trip to Pendle View Fisheries;

- Our display stand at the East Lancashire Railway's 1940s weekend was transported to the venue in Ramsbottom via Crew Van.

Crew Van is soon to be fitted with a side awning so in future we will be able to use the van as a display stand.

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

School's tribute to fallen

VIC members were among special guests of Rossendale School in Turn Village at a service of dedication and thanksgiving for the men and women of Rossendale who gave their lives during the First and Second World Wars.

The Rev Hugh Bearn, Chaplain to the Queen, conducted the service and former Rossendale MP Sir David Trippier was guest speaker.

Other guests included Jake Berry, Rossendale and Darwen MP, the Mayors of Rossendale and Bolton, school governors, staff and pupils from Rossendale School.

A memorial Stone was laid in the grounds.

The pupils had researched two local brothers who died during the First World War and this was the inspiration that led to the tribute.



Singers delight shoppers and fete visitors

SINGING while you shop was introduced to Tesco Haslingden when the VIC Singing Group provided the entertainment.

The group's efforts were richly rewarded when nearly £380 was raised for VIC.

Edenfield Fete was also a venue for more singing and the group will be singing as part of Armed Forces Day celebrations at Asda in Rawtenstall on Saturday June 27.

The day after, they will be on stage at Bacup and Stacksteads Carnival in Stubblelee and Moorlands Parks.





Garden's coming up roses

OUR back yard will soon be 'blooming' lovely thanks to the hard work of veterans and the generosity of a number of groups.

We secured nearly £10,000 from Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale Council for Voluntary Service, which administers the Social Prescribing Grant for the East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group.



That money was used to develop the rear yard into an area to plant and grow crops and flowers with a workshop where veterans can learn new skills and create garden items to sell.

Manager Bob Elliott said: "We have had a donation from Edgeside Baptist Church of plants, shrubs and vegetables and we have also had a lot of help from fellow

veterans' charity Dig In North West.

"We have created a memorial at the rear of the building, which we have planted out and when the flowers bloom it will spell out VIC.

"We also have fruit, veg and herbs growing and it would be nice for us to have a celebration event to say thank you to everyone who has donated and helped."



Tips for top pics

ADVICE on how to use a camera better was handed out by photographer Liz Henson.

The professional photographer from Stacksteads who exhibited in America while completing her degree, offered to share her knowledge.

She explained how to take control of the pictures the veterans take by learning how to manually set up their camera rather than automatically go for the built-in settings.

VIC member John Edwards, who took this picture of Liz receiving thank you flowers from arts and crafts co-ordinator Darren Horsnell, said: "It was been extremely useful and I found out things about my camera that I didn't know existed.

"I will be more confident to take photographs without just using the automatic button."

The workshop was organised by VIC's Creative Community Hub.

Since then, outreach worker Steve Butterworth has invested in a new camera and music project co-ordinator Peter Webster has not stopped taking photos.

Social inclusion trip to fisheries

A COMBINED fishing, walking and barbecue day was held at Pendle View Fisheries in Barrow.

Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell said: "The Creative Community Hub put on the social inclusion trip and we were delighted to report that the fish were biting and the BBQ went down a treat.

"Thanks to everyone who came along and made it a great day – Tony even caught the dish of the day."



Lest we forget

THE War Graves 100 project should be completed by the end of the month as the final stones have been engraved and are ready to be installed in Bacup Cemetery.

The project was made possible by studying the book 'Where Heroes Rest' written by local historian Wendy Lord.

VIC members have



worked with members of the Prince's Trust to help lay nearly 120 First World War veterans' graves and memorials.

SINCE the last newsletter, our Walking Group has been on a trip up Indian's Head above Dovestones Reservoir in Saddleworth and a gentler walk around Haslingden's reservoirs with members of the Prince's Trust.





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

Office and Business Development Manager

Roger Chaney

07800 817 941

rogerchaney@veteransincommunities.org

Operations Manager **Bob Elliott**

bobelliott@veteransincommunities.org

07961 554 006

Outreach Worker **Steve Butterworth**

stevebutterworth@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...

WE HAVE run out of space to tell you about all of the activities that we have been doing this month, it has been so hectic.

Our own music projects officer Peter Webster was on BBC Radio Lancashire being interviewed about VIC.

Through our links with the Prince's Trust we have carried out a number of joint projects and the youngsters have come on a number of our activities too.

We accompanied them at the installation and unveiling of a memorial stone in Victoria Park, Haslingden, to the memory of Sophie Lancaster. Full story and pictures in our July newsletter.

Later this month, to celebrate Armed Forces Week, VIC members will be at the flag raising ceremony at the War Memorial in Rawtenstall.

VIC is also arranging for a special Armed Forces flag to be flown at the War Memorial in Haslingden. Another flag will be flown on the front of the VIC building at Bury Road, Haslingden.

We will be donning marshal jackets and helping out with the Rossendale Hospice fancy dress walk around Rawtenstall on June 19 and in August there will be a VIC fun day in Haslingden.

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

VIC supported by:

powered by



East Lancashire
Clinical Commissioning Group



Supported by NHS Heywood, Middleton
and Rochdale Clinical Commissioning
Group's social investment fund

Find us on
Facebook

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