



Mapping the memory of our fallen heroes

THE mystery of an unknown soldier has been solved by veterans who turned detective to discover what happened to James Clark.

Veterans In Communities (VIC) is mapping out all war memorials in Rossendale including those in businesses and clubs that are not on any official list.

When Haslingden's Royal British Legion Club closed last August, Angus Lindsay, a committee member of the IDL Club, in George Street, Haslingden, created a roll of honour for the Haslingden First World War soldiers who fought and died.

He also wanted to have the Haslingden soldiers who lost their lives from the Second World War similarly honoured and produced a roll of honour with 111 names on.

He said: "We had been given the names by author the late Bill Turner, who wrote about the Accrington Pals.

"We had information to say their rank, when they died and where they were buried, how old they were and whether they were married.

"We had these details for all the other names but in the middle was this name James Clarke and we could not find any information."

When he heard about the veterans' appeal for memorials, Angus contacted VIC manager Bob Elliott to see if they could identify the soldier.

By chance, the veterans were checking graves the former Haslingden Congregational Church graveyard off New Street in Haslingden and came across a Commonwealth War Grave to James Clark.

It carried an Australian insignia and gave his army number, giving Bob the information he needed to research the mysterious soldier.



Gunner	Earnest	Barnes	265	10/04/1942
Gunner	Frederick	Barnes	285	12/09/1944
Flight Sergeant	William	Beverley	265	22/04/1941
Lance Corporal	Harold	Bordycott	30M	08/10/1944
Private	John Richard	Bury	31M	04/09/1944
Private	Joseph	Butler	19S	28/07/1944
Gunner	James	Cartin	33M	20/07/1942
Sergeant	James	Clarke		
Flying Officer	John Mathew	Clitheroe MM	21S	03/06/1944
Private	William H.R.A	Coates	35S	28/08/1944
Sergeant	James	Cockerill	19S	11/06/1944
Private	Walter	Coxhill	29M	09/07/1943
Private	William Godfrey	Cross	40M	01/05/1945
Driver	Thomas	Cryer	22S	15/09/1944
Private	Harold	Darwen	20S	08/03/1943
Flight Sergeant	Albert Ernest	Davies	22S	27/09/1944

Bob said: "It turned out that James did come from Haslingden but left the town with his dad when he was 15 and emigrated to Australia and settled in Tasmania.

"He enlisted in the 12th Battalion Australian Infantry in August 1915 aged 18-and-a-half. The unit fought and served with the ANZAC in Gallipoli, Egypt and in 1916 fought on the Western Front.

"The unit fought at the Somme, Ypres and the great allied offensive near Amiens. There is no evidence to show that James did not take part in all the offensives that the 12th Battalion were involved in."

Records show that James died on the 30th March 1919 from bronchop-

neumonia the day after he was admitted to hospital. The matron recorded 'poor boy he had evidently just kept going till he'd collapsed'

He was buried in a family plot at Haslingden Congregational Chapel graveyard. Although he was Clark without the E – Angus and Bob believe there are too many similarities for it not to be the missing soldier.

Bob presented Angus with full information about James and said: "We were very pleased to have been able to help to solve the mystery."

Angus said: "I am very impressed with the work Bob and the veterans have done. Quite a few people have looked at the roll of honour and asked about James, now we will be able to tell them who he was."

If anyone knows of any other memorials for the veterans to check they can contact Bob on 07961 554 006 or email info@veteransincommunities.org

What VIC has done for me...

Supporting someone with mental health issues is challenging, if that person is part of the Armed Services Community then it becomes even more so. No one truly understands, being part of VIC gives me the support I need to meet the daily challenges of supporting my husband through very troubled times. VIC has given us both support, the walks, art group, WAGs, outreach and a circle of friends give us the opportunity to enjoy our lives in Rossendale.



Helping hands

GRANTS totalling £660 have been secured by VIC.

Rossendale Lions kindly donated £400, a portion of their Christmas fund-raising efforts, and offered to help VIC in the future. Bob is pictured talking to the Lions.

VIC was also successful in securing £260 from Haslingden and Helmshore Neighbourhood Forum to further develop the organisation's website.

Veterans get fit

A SERIES of free fitness sessions incorporating tai chi and a mix of martial art moves are being offered free to veterans by Lighthouse Tai Chi.

Over the next four weeks sessions will be held at Alder Grange High School. Contact Bob on 07961 554 006 to book places.

Art show planned

VETERANS will be showing off their art work this summer in a special exhibition to be staged at Alder Grange High School, Rawtenstall. More information in the next newsletter

'Goal'den footy match offer

VETERANS can enjoy football matches at Bacup Borough for a reduced rate.

The community football club has signed up to Rossendale Armed Forces Community Covenant and has agreed to allow veterans, showing their white veteran's pin badge or a current ID card, in to see matches at the Cowtoot Lane ground for just £2.

Normal admission for adults is £6 with £3 for pensioners.

Business development executive at Bacup

Borough Dave Edler said: "As a community football club we are delighted to be able to support our veterans."

Bob Elliott, VIC

Manager, said: "We are very grateful to Bacup Borough for the support they are offering our veterans and we are sure many will want to support their local team.

"Any veteran wanting to obtain a pin badge can apply online <http://www.veterans-uk.info> or contact me on 07961 554 006 or email info@veteransincommunities.org"



Irwell Vale walk



To subscribe to this newsletter please contact Suzanne Preston on 01706 871730 or suzannepreston@veteransincommunities.org



VIC artists create Disney fish for show

OUR art group was given an unusual challenge – to paint Disney characters for a production during spring half-term.

Art sessions at Rossendale-based charity REAL's office in St James Square, Bacup, every Friday.

Entertainment company That's Entertainment is putting on a show at Helmshore Primary School in February featuring 12 local perform-

ers aged seven to 16.

They will be presenting Disney songs and for the Little Mermaid section the dancing will be done by fluorescent cartoon fish and sea creatures, which will be moved around by the young performers dressed in black on a black background.

Assistant producer and choreographer for That's Entertainment Ruth Tunnicliffe said: "We are a



Rossendale based theatre group and we put on performances for children. We needed the fish creating and it seemed ideal to ask the veterans."

Members of the group were happy to put their artwork to one side to help the group out. The show will be on Friday 22 February at 7.30pm and Saturday 23 February at 2.30pm and 7.30pm.



Halo walk

Walking whatever the weather

MEMBERS of VIC braved the weather on two walks since Xmas; the first was a walk up to the Halo in Rossendale and the second one along Irwell Vale.

We combined the Irwell Vale walk with our on-going war memorials project. This is something we will try to do on the walks if possible. Derek, a retired firefighter, is our walk leader and has recently taken

over the role of co-ordinating the war memorials project as well; he has an interest in military history and says he is looking forward to getting stuck in.

If anybody is interested in joining us, please contact

Darren at darrenhorsnell@veteransincommunities.org or Suzanne on 01706 871730. Alternatively meet us at Haslingden Community Link in Haslingden at 10.30am.

Future walks

- 14 February - Clough Head
- 28 February - Waughs Well
- 14 March - Rossendale Halo
- 28 March - Clowbridge Reservoir

WAGs club gains in popularity

A WEEKLY club for wives and girlfriends has seen its membership grow as people are coming forward from far and wide to join.

Founder of the club Suzanne Preston said: "Women are contacting VIC from much further afield and wanting someone to talk to and get advice and guidance.

"With this in mind we are creating a facebook page for VIC WAGs which will include support from services that VIC are in partnership with.

"The response we have had shows that this is something that has been needed."

VIC WAGs meets on Fridays at the Crystal Rocks cafe in Waterfoot at 1pm.

What VIC can do for others...

I see VIC being a building block for other areas of the country so that Veterans and their families have a point of contact to receive the help and support they need.

What's On and Where

VIC Outreach Service

MONDAY

11pm-3pm

Haslingden Community Link, Bury Road, Haslingden, BB4 5PG.

WEDNESDAY

11am-3pm

REAL Office, St James Square, Bacup, OL13 9AA.

VIC Art Group and drop-in

FRIDAY

11am-1pm

REAL Office, St James Square, Bacup, OL13 9AA.

Walking Group

THURSDAY

Walks are arranged on the 2nd and 4th Thursday, weather permitting.

Veterans' WAGs Club

FRIDAY

Meetings are arranged for Wives And Girlfriends every week at 1pm at Crystal Rocks, off Bacup Road, Waterfoot, BB4 7AW.

Useful Contacts



www.veteransincommunities.org

Manager Bob Elliott

bobelliott@veteransincommunities.org

07961 554 006 / 01706 871730

Suzanne Preston

suzannepreston@veteransincommunities.org

VIC Art Group

Darren Horsnell

darrenhorsnell@veteransincommunities.org

VIC supported by:



Combat Stress Helpline

0800 138 1619

PCT Military Veterans Service

0161 253 6638

Rossendale Citizens' Advice Bureau

0844 499 4121 (from a landline)

0300 456 2552 (from a mobile)

The Samaritans

01706 830999



VIC update

It has been a busy time for Veterans In Communities since the January edition, we have been involved with meeting with representatives from 42 Brigade and Local Authorities to support their Armed Forces Community Covenants (AFCC).

We are waiting news on two funding applications to the Clinical Commissioning Group in East Lancashire and funding from Rochdale for veterans. A further application will be made this month to the MoD through the AFCC grant scheme.

In January we were invited to give a presentation to the four Neighbourhood Forums in Rossendale; Whitworth, Haslingden, Rawtenstall and Bacup. It was a great opportunity for VIC to introduce ourselves to the community and local councillors.

In February VIC were invited to give presentations to the GP's and local health services in Pendle. The purpose of the Pendle Locality Alcohol Protected Learning Event was to give GP's awareness on the services that were available to patients presenting issues around alcohol. Bob Elliott said: "VIC will start to look at other walks outside of the Valley and to work with Salute so that there is greater coverage for veteran services to other areas of East Lancashire."

VIC has launched their new Facebook page www.facebook.com/VeteransInCommunities this page will be updated regularly with planned events and news.