



Vets named in award shortlist

THREE members of VIC have been selected as finalists in the English Veterans' Awards to be presented on September 25 at the Mercure Bristol Holland House.

Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth is shortlisted in the Role Model of the Year category.

A Falklands' veteran, Steve has been with VIC since 2012 after he was referred to the art group by the Military Veterans' Service because of his painting.

He said: "I am quite a private person and I was humbled by being named as a finalist. I am contracted to do 20 hours with VIC but

every month I complete an extra 45 hours. I am an Outreach Worker and run sessions in Rochdale on a Thursday, Pendle on a Monday and Heywood and Burnley on alternate Tuesdays. I am also a Peer Mentor.

"I have seen two or three younger veterans when I have felt like I was talking to myself at their age and if I can stop them going through the anger and issues that I had, then I am happy."

Last year Steve led a series of workshops in schools and the community, planned, organised and implemented the Rammy Rocks: Ramsbottom Peace Memorial Project and designed a lasting

memorial.

Fellow Falklands' veteran Darren Horsnell has been involved with VIC from its inception and uses his incredible artistic talents to inspire others.

A finalist in The Community Award category, Darren is the Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator for VIC and as well as running art groups he also organises popular Painting in the Style of Bob Ross classes.

Darren was injured during the Falklands and in the bombing of Woolwich Barracks in the early 1980s and lives with PTSD.

He said: "Being named as a finalist made me feel that everything that I have done and am still doing, not just for me

but for other people's benefit too, is being recognised. When I first joined VIC I was going through a very hard time and my confidence and self-esteem were very low. Now thanks to VIC I am a much more confident person. I am no longer disappearing to a dark place when I am on my own. To me, art is better than any medication a doctor can prescribe."

Former VIC Transformational Coach Terry Morley, from Groundwork MSST is also a finalist alongside Darren.

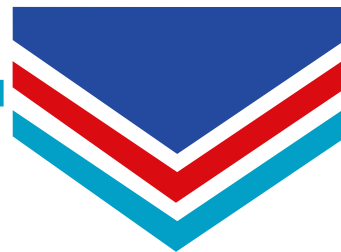
Liz Davies is a Voluntary Outreach Worker at VIC having been involved with the charity for nearly four years and is a finalist in Volunteer of

the Year.

She served for five years in the Royal Air Force and while working for VIC set up the hugely successful Sandbag Café in Heywood.

Liz realised that there was more chance of veterans opening up and sharing issues in a more laid-back café style outreach than a clinical environment of a GP surgery. She said: "I was very shocked to find out I was a finalist. I am most proud of enabling 13 veterans to get blazers and regimental ties. They were not going to Remembrance events because they did not feel properly dressed. Now they often wear them to Sandbag, and they wear them with pride."

A crowdfunding page has been set up to help pay for the veterans' attendance at the awards. Anyone who wishes to donate can visit www.crowdfunder.co.uk/help-get-our-veterans-to-their-awards-ceremony



Mentor

ARTS and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell has been named as a Royal Artillery Association mentor.

He served in the Fourth Field Regiment and will now be called upon to support and advise other Artillery members.

ATC invite

TWO Cold War Veteran RAF members of VIC, Jim Smith and Jacko Pearce, will be guests of 1969 Squadron Air Cadets.

They will be attending a formal dinner at The Riverside, Whitworth, on Saturday September 14 when achievements of the cadets will be celebrated and the Battle of Britain will be remembered.

Canal cruise

JUST 10 places are available on a canal cruise on Thursday September 5 from Stretford Marina, which will stop over at Boothstown.

A £10 donation towards transport is needed and to book a place a £5 non-refundable deposit is required. The trip leaves the centre at 9am. To book, call 01706 833180.

Ceilidh night

A CEILIDH for VIC will be held on Saturday September 14 at the IDL Club, George Street, Haslingden, at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £10, including supper and dancing to Frolicking Pete and the Fumbling Fingers Ceilidh Band.

Wedding singers

AN UNUSUAL engagement for the VIC Choir saw them singing to celebrate at the wedding of choir member Linda and husband Victor.

The choir received an invitation to attend Linda's wedding and sing during the 'signing of the register' at St Thomas Church, Musbury, Helmshore. They received this lovely message.

Hi Ronnie,

We still have our Polish family here and we are spending the day in Blackpool with them tomorrow, but Vic and I are hoping to call in tomorrow night to say our thanks for your contribution to our perfect day, so many lovely comments about the choir, and the service, wish we could bottle them all.

*Good wishes,
Linda and Victor*



VIC Choir sang to shoppers in Tesco Haslingden while Irvine Ferris, Jacko Pearce and Jim Smith, backed up by Victor, helped to collect around £200.



Despite wet weather, there was a good turnout at the annual fun day organised by the Haslingden Branch of The Royal British Legion at St Mary's Football Club, Haslingden.

Scaling Pendle Hill

MEMBERS of VIC enjoyed a lovely walk up Pendle Hill and the surrounding moorland.

There was even time for some balancing on top of the trig point.

Our next walk will be an eight miler around Greenfield Reservoir and Raven Stones, Saddleworth, on Thursday September 19.

The crew van will leave the VIC Centre at 9am and a donation of £10 for transport is requested.

A non-refundable £5 books a place and a maximum of 10 can attend.



Mayor's VIC pledge

VIC is delighted to have been selected by the Mayor of Ribbles Valley Councillor Stella Brunskill to benefit from funds raised during her year of office.

Coun Brunskill's son Michael serves in the forces and is her consort. As well as raising money for VIC, she will also be raising funds for local projects and organisations that promote community wellbeing.

Every Tuesday from September 17 from 9.30-11.30am, VIC will be opening an outreach and drop-in at Ebenezer's Coffee Shop, The Old Chapel, Ebenezer's Terrace, Billington.



RIP George

IT WAS with great sadness that we learnt one of our members George Henshall has died.

George served in the Royal Signals and was a regular at our Christmas dinners. His funeral was at St Peter's Church in Haslingden.

Our thoughts are with his family at this difficult time.



New Chief Executive

IT IS all change at VIC as we bid farewell and wish Chief Executive Liz Hamilton well as she begins her training to become a Baptist Minister.

Liz, who has been a Deacon at Trinity Baptist Church in Bacup for two years, has been the Chief Executive at VIC for the past four years.

She said: "I have been thinking about becoming a Minister full-time for two years.

"It is hard to describe how it came about. One day, during a service, the minister brought out five random objects and announced that I was



going to talk about them.

"Church has always been a big part of my life for a long time. I am going to train to become an accredited Baptist Minister; it is a three-year course.

"I will be spending



three days a week at Northern Baptist College in Manchester and three days at a church in Leyland.

"There has been a lot of laughs while I have been here and the most rewarding part has been seeing the progress

some of the veterans have made from really being at rock bottom to flourishing, growing and improving everything about their lives. That is VIC doing what it is supposed to do.

"One of the highlights has to be attending the national Soldiering On Awards in London where VIC was a finalist the 'Working Together' category, which is just what VIC is all about."

Amanda Walton, who has been Admin Officer at VIC since January 2018, has taken over as Chief Executive.

Liz's last day at VIC will be on Friday September 6.

Welcome Eileen



OUR new Administrator is Eileen Smith.

Eileen, from Darwen, has worked in local government for 25 years and her partner served in the Navy.

She said: "I have attended many functions when veterans were there and I wanted to get more involved.

"I like hearing the different stories veterans have to tell and, by chance, my partner heard about this job and I went for it. I felt I wanted a change and I wanted to do something different.

"I enjoy this environment. I have been to veterans' breakfast clubs and kept thinking this was something I could be involved with."

GPs' award

CONGRATULATIONS to Waterfoot Health Centre for being one of the first in Rossendale to be accredited as 'Armed Forces veteran friendly.'

As well as achieving the standard, the practice in Cowpe Road, Waterfoot, has also put together a veterans' notice board.

If any other practices would like support with this accreditation or for a veterans notice board then please contact VIC on 01706 833180

• Several health centres in Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale have also been provided with information on how to become accredited by Project Worker Bev Fowler.



Memorial lives on

A POIGNANT dedication service was held in Rochdale for the 100th anniversary memorial.

VIC Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth attended along with veterans Bernard Munton and Tony Wolfenden.

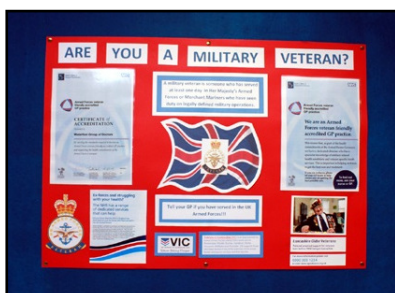
Steve said: "This was meant to be a

temporary memorial for the anniversary year but, after repeated requests from the public and Veterans alike, it was removed and re-erected in the memorial gardens near to the Cenotaph in Rochdale.

"After a very moving service, I stood and watched with a lump in my

throat as Tony placed a cross in the garden on behalf of Second World War veteran and friend, our Bernard. The cross was for Bernard's brother who was lost at Monte Casino and has no known grave.

"It was understandably a very emotional moment for him."



Help with hearing

VETERANS who are struggling with their hearing may be eligible for funding from The Royal British Legion's Veterans' Hearing Fund.

To apply visit www.veteranshearingsupport.co.uk



ROSSENDALE

Activities are held 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

WEDNESDAY

Allotment and Veterans In Production

Help on the allotment in Holcombe Road, Helmshore, or manufacture wooden items at the centre. Contact 01706 833180.

Art Class

2pm-4pm
Jubilee Court, Jubilee Road, Haslingden, BB4 4DD.

THURSDAY

Woodworking Course

10am-3pm

Computer and IT help drop-in

11am-3pm

VIC Choir (weekly)

6.30-8.30pm

FRIDAY

Art Group and drop-in

10am-3.30pm

SECOND SATURDAY

Rossendale Armed Forces and Veterans' Breakfast Club

10am-12.30pm

The Link Cafe, Haslingden Community Link, Bury Road, Haslingden BB4 5PG

EVERY MONTH

Painting in the Style of Bob Ross art classes

Contact Darren 01706 833180.

Walking Group, Social Outings and

Outdoor Activities

These are held every THURSDAY. Visit the **Events** section on our VIC Facebook page or the VIC website and follow the link to **Projects and Activities**.

BURNLEY AND PENDLE

Outreach Service

MONDAY - first week only

Place de Creil, near Wilkos, Nelson.
10am-noon

MONDAY - second week only

Market Place Car park, Town Square, Colne.
9am-11am

TUESDAY - every week

Breakfast Club at Burnley FC in the Community Cafe, Charter Walk.
9am-11am

WEDNESDAY - every week

Veterans Community Cafe, 1 Great George Street, Colne, BB8 0SY.
9am-11am

Contact 01706 833180 for dates of outreach at the Pendle Armed Forces Support Group, Holmefield Mill, Gisburn Road, Barrowford.

HEYWOOD, MIDDLETON AND ROCHDALE

The Sandbag Cafe and drop in

TUESDAY

10am-noon
Sandon House, Taylor Street, Heywood OL10 4EF.

THURSDAY

9am-10.30am Rochdale Breakfast Club, Rochdale Town Hall Bistro OL16 1AB.
10.30am-noon

VIC Outreach

1 Riverside, Rochdale OL16 1UB.

HYNDBURN

Outreach Service and Art Group

TUESDAY

10am-3pm
VIC Shop, Accrington Arndale Centre.

FRIDAY

Outreach Service

10.30am-3pm

Want to help?

To donate to support the work of VIC please visit our website and click on the secure Virgin Money Giving link

www.veteransincommunities.org/donate.html

RIBBLE VALLEY

Outreach Service

TUESDAYS (from Sept 17)

9.30am-11.30pm

Ebenezer's Coffee Shop, The Old Chapel, Ebenezer's Terrace, Billington, BB7 9NN.

VIC – 01706 833180

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Transformational Coach Gill Hughes
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Volunteer Outreach Worker Carole Mills
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Volunteer Support Worker Mel Fitzgerald
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Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell
darrenhorsnell@vic.org.uk

Outdoor Activities Co-ordinator Ivy Limbrick
ivylimbrick@vic.org.uk

VIC Choir Bookings Barry Hyde
barryhyde@vic.org.uk

Contacts

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

SSAFA

email Lancashire@ssafo.org.uk

01772 260 462

Rossendale Citizens' Advice

0300 456 2552

The Samaritans

01282 694929 Mon to Fri 9am-9pm

Freephone 116 123

Mental Health Helpline

0800 915 4640 Mon to Fri 7pm - 11pm Sat

& Sun 12 noon to 12 midnight

Royal Air Forces Association

0800 018 2361

Veterans UK Free Helpline

0808 1914 218

East Lancashire Single Point of Access via GP or self-referral

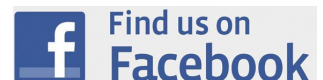
01282 657116

Bolton Armed Forces Centre 4 Veterans

www.bafc4v.org 01204 776628

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