

Bob named in 'most influential people' list

OPERATIONS Manager at VIC Bob Elliott has been named as one of the most influential people in the military community in 2019.

Modest Bob, who was one of the founders of the charity, was quick to disseminate the award to the team and not an individual.

Veterans' resettlement magazine Pathfinder has compiled a list of

the most influential people in 2019 and it is being published over three months until March.

The January list includes Bob and on the opposing page is Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex

Bob joked: "That's the closest I am ever likely to get to Royalty."

Although a subscriber to the magazine, Bob was unaware of the list until friends informed



him. He said: "There are some good articles in the magazine, but it was a shock to find my name on the list. I

don't know how it came about but it is not an award for an individual, VIC works because we are a team.

"It is good to see VIC receiving this kind of recognition."

In 2017 the charity was a finalist in the

Working Together category of the national Soldiering On Awards and won the Third Sector Award in The Royal British Legion Greater Manchester and Lancashire area Team awards.



Bob Elliott
Operational Manager Veterans in Communities

Grants secure future of veterans' projects

THE future of projects run by VIC is secure thanks to three successful grant bids.

A further £80,000 has been received from the East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group, to expand outreach.

VIC is currently looking for a shop in Accrington so that, along with other agencies, a daily drop-in facility can be opened.

Chief Executive Liz Hamilton said: "We will be doing more work in Hyndburn and also Ribbles Valley and we are looking to set up outreach services.

"We are extremely grateful to the East Lancs CCG which has

supported the work of VIC since its inception. We could not do the work that we do without this funding."

VIC also secured an Armed Forces Covenant Trust grant worth £19,677 to support the outreach work in Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale.

Liz said a further £4,350 had been approved from the Santander Foundation Discovery Grants and this will assist with work to develop the allotment in Helmshore.

One of the VIC success stories Veterans In Production, which manufactures wooden items from recycled

pallets, was set up thanks to a grant from the ABF The Soldiers Charity.

The project has been so successful Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "VIP is now being asked to undertake a number of commissioned jobs including one for a school and the project has outgrown its current base – the back yard of the VIC Centre.

"It really needs its own premises and so we are looking for space for a workshop.

"If anyone knows of any suitable accommodation, ideally for free, please can they contact VIC on 01706 833180."

Outdoor activities

A WALK and a social inclusion trip to a coal mine are planned for next month.

The Reelers Trail Walk from Roddlesworth Visitor Centre in Tockholes, is a 7.5mile walk which will be undertaken by VIC on Thursday March 7.

The minibus will leave the VIC Centre at 9.30am and a donation of £3 is requested to cover transport costs.

There will also be a chance to become a miner for the day when VIC holds a social inclusion trip to the National Coal Mining Museum at Overton, Wakefield, on Thursday March 21.

The trip is limited to 10 places and a donation of £10 is requested towards the cost of transport. The museum is free, but if you would like to go on the underground tour it costs £4.

To book places call 01706 833180.

Centre improvement plan

QUOTES are being sought for a major refurbishment works of the VIC Centre in Bury Road, Haslingden.

It will be the first time major works have been carried out since the former pub was purchased in the late 1990s by a previous group. Then, grant funded renovation works costing

£352,000 were carried out.

Admin Officer Amanda Walton said: "We are bidding for funding from the Veterans' Community Centres' Programme, a specialist pot of money for Armed Forces charities with an existing building that requires refurbishment. It is part of the Armed Forces Covenant

Trust.

"We are looking to make a significant investment in the upgrading of the building."

The work will include replacing existing lighting with LED lights, replacing windows and fire doors, repairs to the roof, dry lining and altering the basement cellars. Window blinds need replacing, an

external wall needs repairing and rebuilding and gates need replacing.

For more information contact Amanda on 01706 833180. All quotes must be itemised and received in writing at the VIC office by 12noon on Monday March 4.

If the bid is successful, work will begin in June.

Free fun

A FREE activity day for military veterans and their families will be held at Sportcity, Manchester, on Saturday March 23 from 11am.

MovingForces will be organising the event at the National Squash Centre when participants can have a go at different sports. There will be great food and fun activities for all the family.

Training

VOLUNTEER training sessions have been held over four weeks and proved very popular.

Around 20 volunteers have completed the sessions which have helped them to better understand how VIC works, the structure of the organisation, its aims and what is expected from volunteers as well as admin and policies.



TEAM meetings are never dull at VIC and the latest four-legged board member Bruno was delighted to take the 'lead' in discussions



Rivington walk celebrations

A BIRTHDAY celebration was the highlight of a VIC walk from

Rivington to the Second World War Memorial in Lead Mine Valley.

As well as singing 'Happy Birthday' a cake was also presented.



IMPROVEMENTS have been made to the basement at the VIC Centre so that it can be used in future. A new floor has been laid, thanks to Simon Peace and Andy Greaves, which will enable the space to be used by the centre.

Farewell to Dave Goss

AROUND 40 veterans and well wishers attended the funeral for former Coldstream Guardsman Dave Goss at Accrington Crematorium.

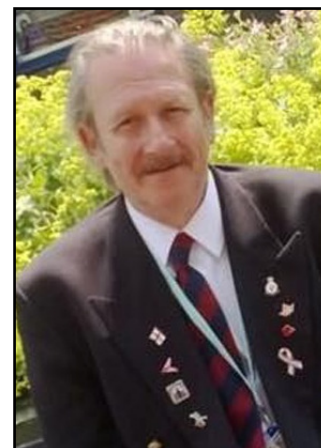
Three standards from The Royal British Legion were carried and a fitting send off was given to the long-standing member of VIC who died at his home in Haslingden last month.

Dave served from 1971-75 and completed a tour in

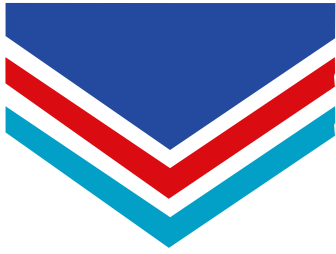
Northern Ireland.

His former wife Bev Goss and his stepmother Karin attended, along with many representatives from VIC; unfortunately his dad was not well enough to travel.

VIC would like to thank Leigh Hargreaves, Rossendale Council Bereavement Officer, the Rev Philip Norris, who conducted the service and funeral director Fred Hamer Funeral Service.



Following the service, soup and sandwiches were served at the VIC Centre.



Military manoeuvres

A HUGE thank you from VIC to the students from the Military Academy at AccRoss College for the sterling work they have carried out.

Over the past few weeks a group of students, who are planning a future in the services, have been attending the VIC Centre to experience military life to prepare them for their chosen career path.

This has involved them being set a number of tasks and they have been more than happy to accept the challenge.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "The students have helped VIC out on a number of different projects from the clearing the cellar at the centre to denailing the pallets that we have had provided for free by JJO.

"They also painted inside the centre in readiness for new carpets being put down

"While they were here, one of our walks was also being held so they got the chance to join veterans for a walk around Read and Altham and they also took in Martholme Viaduct."

They worked down on the allotment in Helmshore and Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth said: "The students were very helpful in preparing the ground for a new polytunnel which VIC has bought for the allotment.

"The polytunnel will provide us with extra room to prepare and store hanging baskets which we will be selling."

After BBC Radio Lancashire presenter Sally Naden received the last VIC Newsletter she read about the work the students had been doing and asked reporter Phil Cunliffe to visit to capture the work in a broadcast.

So not only did the students help us out, they got to tell their stories on the radio.

Bob added: "Just like in the military they were given nicknames and they got

to talk to veterans about their experiences.

"We are looking forward to working more closely with the college in the future to help students to get experience of what basic training is like."

Lee Mulligan, Military Academy course leader, said: "We have worked with the VIC before and it gives the course a unique angle in terms of meeting veterans who have been there and done it."

Volunteer Production Co-ordinator for Veterans In Production Simon Peace said: "They were able to carry out the command tasks that were set for them to a high quality and when they were uncertain they would ask questions and were not afraid to do so. It was good preparation for the careers they want to do.

"They will be returning to carry out further work with VIC in the future."





ROSSENDALE

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

Outreach Service MONDAY-FRIDAY

10am-3pm

For a home appointment call 01706 833180

MONDAY

Crafty Chatters

10.30am-12.30pm

TUESDAY

Allotment and Veterans In Production

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

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

Art Group and drop-in

10.30am-3.30pm

Grub's Up

12.30pm

Luncheon club every fortnight £2. Book and pay in advance - contact 01706 833180.

WEDNESDAY

Community Arts and Crafts

10am-noon

Art Class

2pm-4pm

Jubilee Court, Jubilee Road, Haslingden, BB4 4DD.

THURSDAY

Woodworking Course

10am-3pm

Computer and IT help drop-in

11am-3pm

Painting with Pan Pastels (from March)

1pm-3pm cost £10

Singing Group (weekly)

6.30-8.30pm

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

Contact Darren 01706 833180.

Walking Group, Social Outings and Outdoor Activities

These are held every **THURSDAY**. Please visit the *Events* section on our VIC Facebook page or log on to 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

9.30-10.30am Rochdale Breakfast Club, Rochdale Town Hall Bistro OL16 1AB.
10.30am-noon

VIC Outreach

1 Riverside, Rochdale OL16 1UB.

HYNDBURN

Outreach Service

MONDAYS

1-3pm

Ground floor near cafe Accrington Market.

Want to help?

To donate to support the work of Veterans In Communities please visit our website and click on the secure BT MyDonate page

www.vic.org.uk

VIC – 01706 833180

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Volunteer Support Worker Mel Fitzgerald

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Outdoor Activities Co-ordinator Ivy Limbrick

ivylimbrick@vic.org.uk

Singing Group 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

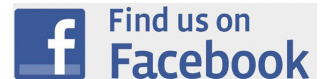
Bolton Armed Forces Centre 4 Veterans

www.ba4v.org 01204 776628

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