



# VIC making a difference

**COMMUNITY projects in Colne, Loveclough and Haslingden have been completed this month.**

VIC members have finished work at Dave Fishwick's Minibus Sales where we rebuilt a wall and painted railings.

We responded to an inquiry from an amateur First World War researcher who found a neglected Commonwealth War Grave covered with mould.

Anne King contacted VIC to say: "It's the first time I have seen a CWGC covered in green mould.

"I'm sure it's because it is in a more or less forgotten cemetery on the

outskirts of Rossendale.

"I just wondered if you guys knew about it and if you could perhaps tidy it up?"

When VIC attended they found six graves of First World War soldiers.

Volunteer worker Bill Ogden, who completed the work with Mick, said: "We have cleaned up all the six graves. We have done our best to remove the discolouration as a result of being positioned under trees.

"We also cut back the tree lines to ensure that all six graves are now easily accessible.

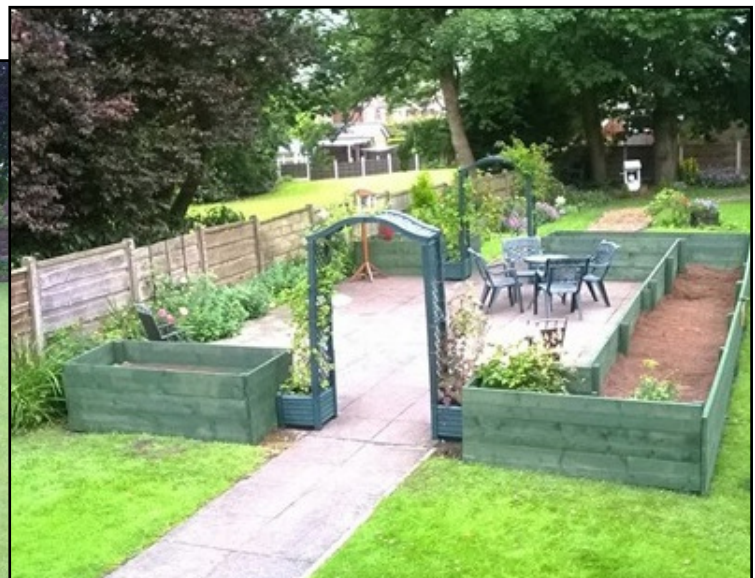
"The idea now is to try and get the

local primary school involved to ensure they are not permitted to get in such a state in the future.

"In the meantime I will try to visit once a year and give them a tidy."

Manager Bob Elliott said: "We have also just completed work on a community project at Westbourne sheltered accommodation in Haslingden to create raised beds for the residents to use.

"We are now looking for more community projects for our veterans to undertake. If you have a project you need help with please contact 01706 833180."





## Art offer

VETERANS can now benefit from a 10 per cent reduction at VIC's Positive Art Shop if they are a member of the Rewards for Forces website.

The shop, on Bury Road, Rawtenstall, is open from Thursdays to Sundays.

Rewards for Forces are also offering a cinema discount that may be of interest and anyone wanting to know more can log on to [www.rewardsforforces.co.uk](http://www.rewardsforforces.co.uk)

## Family fun

A HOST of activities have been arranged by St Mary's Football Club in Haslingden to support VIC.

The family fun day will be held at the club on South Shore Street on August 8 from 2pm to 8pm.

Entertainment will be provided by the VIC Singing Group and Lyric. A barbecue will be held and there will be fun activities, a car boot sale and a host of other attractions.

## Fancy dress

A FANCY dress walk for Rossendale Hospice was marshalled by members of VIC.

The walk, on July 19, was around Rawtenstall and VIC set up a mini assault course at the start and finish point at Whitaker Park for the walkers who took part.

## New flags

THANKS to a donation by County Councillor David Stansfield two new Union Flags have been bought to be displayed at Greenfield Gardens at the War Memorial.



## Veterans on track

**WE GOT the chance to race go-karts against a number of injured veterans from Kartforce, celebrities and other teams.**

The Harley Street Skin Clinic organised the sponsored event Back on Track to raise money for Kartforce and injured troops.

Two lucky VIC members former military musician Peter Webster and Tony Stubbs, who served in the Kings Own Royal Border Regiment, got to take part.

They travelled to the Daytona Race Track at Sandown Park, Esher, Surrey.

Peter said: "It was an absolutely fantastic day and I went down with my son Lewis who is 15 and he loved it too. The adrenaline rush was amazing. All of your problems went away when you were on the race track"

"There was a team from Top Gear and The Stig was on the track at the same as me and I passed him twice."

Tony said: "It was a pleasure being invited and meeting other veterans and also meeting celebrities and also racing against each other.

"There was a beautiful atmosphere where the celebrities got involved with the race and when we crashed in to each other. Everyone was brilliant and they were nice people. I will never forget that day." Each of the four members in



the teams got to race for 30 minutes and were then called in to the pits to switch drivers.

The races were run according to Formula 1 rules and both Tony and Peter found themselves in the 'sin bin' when they passed a kart that had spun.

Peter added: "The karts went up to 55mph and when I was doing my laps it started raining making the track harder to drive on.

"I took one corner at 55mph and I crashed and spun the kart through 360 degrees three times and bounced off the tyre wall. I was fine and so I just carried on racing.

"We came 14th out of the 24 teams that took part, which was fantastic and I definitely want to do it again."

Manager Bob Elliott said: "We have been invited back and will continue to work with Kartforce in the future. Dave Player, the founder of Kartforce, has offered ideas and support for our members to get more experience.

"There is a track in Manchester and we are looking at putting our own team in next time."



## Crew Van's Capers

WHERE has Crew Van has been this month?

- Crew Van took members to a walk in Pendle when they went on the Witches Trail;
- It helped members to attend several events during Armed Forces Week;

- Crew Van was used to take members, and our assault course, to Whitaker Park in Rawtenstall for Rossendale Hospice charity walk;

- It helped transport items to our community project in Haslingden;

- Crew Van was also in Colne at David Fishwick's Minibus Sales where we finished rebuilding a wall and painting railings.

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



**CREW Van has been modified to make the vehicle even more useful to our organisation.**

A side awning has been added meaning we can turn the van into a stall, a roof rack has been fitted so we can utilise the space and we will soon also have a useful towbar.



## Inclusion

SEVERAL family friendly social inclusion activities have been planned for the school holidays.

On July 30 there will be a family walk around Pendle, this will leave the VIC Centre at 9.30am or meet Barley Village Car Park at 10am.

On August 13 a family visit to Brockholes Nature Reserve, Preston, will leave VIC at 9.30am and then on August 22 VIC will be having a day out at the Pendle Sculpture Trail again leaving VIC at 9.30am or meet at Barley Village car park at 10am. Places are limited and must be pre-booked by contacting 01706 833180.

## Training

SIX members of VIC have completed their Royal British Legion caseworker training.

Darren Horsnell, Peter Webster, Steve Butterworth, and Tony Stubbs, along with two Darwen members, have now all completed their training.

## Phillipa toughs it

VIC administrator Phillipa Rowley undertook a tough mudder 5k challenge with her relatives at Heaton Park, Manchester, for Cancer Research UK.

Phillipa is no stranger to challenges and regularly completes runs to raise money for the charity in memory of her grandmother who lost her battle with cancer.



She said: "This time I raised £40. It was a 5k race but we had to compete obstacles along the way and there was mud too.

"I loved it, it was wet and muddy but it was also great fun."



## Remembering Sophie

ACCRINGTON and Rossendale Prince's Trust volunteers who have been working with VIC, unveiled a special memorial to Sophie Lancaster.

Sophie, from Haslingden, died after being set upon in Stubblee Park in Bacup in 2007 because she dressed differently to her attackers.

At Victoria Park in Haslingden, they also planted a tree and a plaque in memory of Sophie.

The team has been working on VIC's First World War project in Bacup Cemetery and presented outreach worker Steve Butterworth with a £40 donation.



## Celebrating

**ARMED Forces week was celebrated by members of VIC at five different events.**

The week also raised nearly £650 for the charity.

Members were present when the flag was raised in atrocious weather at Rawtenstall's war memorial. We also organised a ceremony at Greenfield Gardens in Haslingden when we raised a flag.

We were present at

## Armed Forces Week

Rawtenstall's large supermarkets Tesco and Asda on the Saturday.

At Tesco cadets, firefighters and a number of other organisations were also represented and in Asda our singing group entertained shoppers.

To round the week off we attended at Bacup and

Stacksteads Carnival. Crew Van was there along with a stall and we set up a mini assault course for the young, and not so young, to try.

It proved a huge hit and is now being used by VIC at future events including the Royal Lancashire Show at Ribchester in August.



## Digging in

EVERYTHING is coming up blooming lovely in the back yard of the VIC Centre.

Thanks to free compost from Rossendale Council, the help of Dig In North West to build planters and VIC members green fingers we will have fruit, veg and flow-



ers in abundance.

We also have a memorial garden planted out with VIC in flowers.

A grant of nearly £10,000 for the project was received from the East Lancashire CCG.



## 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

**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...

**TO ENSURE we continue to serve our members and move forward we held a meeting for trustees and members.**

At Haslingden Community Link, those who attended were divided into three groups to discuss the strengths of our organisation, the weaknesses, the opportunities and any potential threats.

All of the information from the groups is now being collated and it will form the basis for the future development of VIC.

It is vital that VIC meets the needs of our members and in order to do this we need to involve them in our planning so thank you to everyone who gave up their time.

As summer approaches we are building in several social inclusion activities to give time for veterans and their families to enjoy days out and quality time.

We are also grateful to organisations, like St Mary's Football Club, who have planned events in the summer to raise funds so we can continue our work.

The Positive Art Shop, which VIC opened last month, has seen a steady flow of visitors. Not only can people buy artwork created by veterans they can also learn more about the work of VIC.

## 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](http://www.veteransincommunities.org)

VIC supported by:

