

Grants secure the future of VIC

THREE grants have been awarded to Veterans In Communities to secure projects over the coming years.

Our long-term funder the East Lancashire NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has approved a further grant for two years – a total of £160,000 – while £8,000 has been agreed by ABF, The Soldiers' Charity and £21,710 from Heywood Middleton and Rochdale Social Investment Fund.

VIC Chief Executive Liz Hamilton said: "We are delighted that the hard work of Veterans In Communities has been recognised by

these three funding bodies and it will ensure that our work can continue and can extend to reach even more veterans and former emergency services personnel."

The CCG grant covers the work of VIC in the East Lancashire area while the HMR grant supports the outreach services we provide in the Rochdale, Heywood and Middleton areas.

The Soldiers' Charity grant will be used to help set up Veterans in Production – VIP.

This is a new initiative that will see veterans creating items for sale and undertaking projects.

The grant will pay for equipment and

tools that can be used to create items for sale at VIC and the allotment sites.

There are plans to create more benches from upcycled pallets along with nesting boxes and other woodworking projects.

VIP has already been commissioned to create a bespoke notice board for Weir by community group Weir Pride.

As part of the CCG grant, VIC is also running an inter-generational project uniting cadets with veterans.

Cadets from the Air Training Corps attended a meeting at the VIC Centre when they got to hear tales from four veterans.

Lewis Banham and Doug Hocken served

in the Second World War, Lewis is a D-Day veteran and Doug was in the RAF.

Dennis Rawes was in the Queens' Lancashire Regiment and Bill Ogden served in the Royal Signals Corps.

Liz said: "The talk was scheduled to last until 12, but they were so interested and asked so many questions that the young cadets and veterans were still chatting half an hour later."



CREATIVE Crafty Chatters have a funky collection of Easter chicks and roosters complete with hidden eggs to delight all the family. The crazy chickens are going 'cheep' at the VIC Centre with all money raised benefiting the charity.

M Helping to do our FareShare

MUNITIONES
VOLUNTEER drivers are now helping out two Food Groups in Rawtenstall and Accrington by providing transport to collect food from FareShare.

Every Tuesday an Accrington food run is carried out by the VIC crew van and on a Thursday both the crew van and the REAL mini bus collect food for the group in Rawtenstall.

Members of VIC Ivy Limbrick and Pat O'Reilly volunteer



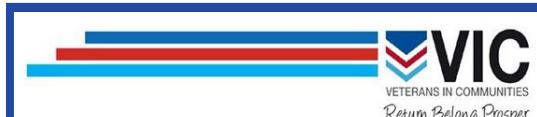
each week to distribute the food at Positive Start Food Group in Rawtenstall on a Friday.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "We need more volunteer drivers. The van leaves the VIC Centre at 0920 and

usually back by 1200."

Volunteer drivers should call 01706 833180.

- VIC is launching an outreach service next month in Accrington on Tuesdays from 10am-12 at an office in the centre of Accrington Market.



Have you ever served in the Armed Services?



**If so, let your GP know.
There may be other services available to you.**

Veterans In Communities, 12 Bury Road, Haslingden, BB4 5PL – 01706 833180
Company Limited by Guarantee No: 8230197 - Registered Charity No: 1151194

School project back on ‘Shed’-ule

LAST month we reported on progress made on our project to revitalise the outdoor facilities at St James CE School, Haslingden, but sadly the shed we installed was vandalised.

However, since we publicised the damage, although it has continued to be used by local youths, no further vandalism has



occurred.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: “We made an appeal in the press and have subsequently been offered a brand new shed and several

replacements.

“We are keeping a watching brief on what happens and at the moment, as there have been no more reports of vandalism, we are considering refitting

the shed for the children as it is an ideal size for them.”

At the moment one side panel has had to be replaced because it was smashed off and broken up, the windows need replacing and the window boxes need reattaching.

VIC is very grateful for all the offers of assistance that have been made since the damage was publicised.



All kitted out

Concert for Mayor's fund

MEMBERS of VIC attended a concert in aid of the Mayor of Rossendale's Charity Fund, of which we are one of the beneficiaries.

The concert involved Rossendale Male Voice Choir singing and musicians from 2nd Rossendale Scout Group Band playing and was held at St Peter's Church, Haslingden.



Witches walk

A LOVELY walk was enjoyed by VIC members around the eastern loop of the Walking with Witches trail in Pendle.

A special First World War Centenary memorial stone was also spotted.

OUR good friends at St Mary's Football Club in Haslingden are raising awareness of VIC by wearing our logo on their kit.

The team has used our crew van to help them get to games and will also be fundraising for VIC.

Spring heralds start of allotment work

WORK has begun to get our allotments in Middleton and Helmshore ready for planting and future development.

We now have two allotments at Latrigg Crescent, Middleton, with a polytunnel and wood has just been delivered to create raised beds.

In Helmshore we have a number of volunteers who have offered to help grow crops and anybody who would like to help can contact 01706 833180.



Trips galore

LOTS of outdoor activities are planned for the next couple of months.

A social inclusion trip to the Fire Service Museum in Rochdale will be held on Friday April 7, leaving the VIC Centre at 1pm.

On Thursday April 13 veterans and the community are invited to join a five-mile walk at Winter Hill, Belmont.

On Thursday May 11 members will complete an ascent of Indians Head in Saddleworth.

A four-mile walk around Jumbles Country Park in Bolton will be held on Thursday April 27

On Thursday May 25 there will be a social inclusion trip to Brockholes Nature Reserve, Preston.

All trips leave the VIC Centre in Haslingden at 9.30am unless otherwise stated. Please book places on 01706 833180.

Armoury visit suits many

Leaflet on dog owning

A SPECIAL leaflet has been compiled by Rossendale Responsible Animal Rescue to explain the advantages of owning a dog.

It follows the successful union of VIC member Chris Kavanagh with rescue dog Ranger.

The leaflet – entitled All Life Matters – is available on the VIC Facebook page.

Centre work continues

WORK is continuing to spruce up our centre including repainting the interior, replacing the beading on the windows and repointing the ridge tiles.

We would like to thank County Councillor David Stansfield for the grant to carry out the work.

AN AMAZING trip to Leeds Armoury proved hugely popular with a packed crew van leaving Haslingden.

Among the highlights were a First World War exhibition and the vast collection of weapons on display.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "We had a couple of new people come along to the visit and it was a very quiet day in the office."

Paul Kerr said: "It was a fantastic day out with fantastic people.

"I made some new friends for life: an ex-Fusilier who served with my sons, an old Normandy veteran at the spry young age of 94 and on the way out an ex-gunner 49 RA who swapped with us when we moved from Topcliffe to Honne – small world indeed.

"A big thank you to Liz for chaperoning us vets and Bob



and the team for organising it in the first place for the

princely sum of £3 unbelievable. Thanks guys."



War Museum breakfast treat

VETERANS enjoyed two trips in one when they visited the Imperial War Museum North after first stopping off at the Trafford Veterans' Mess Breakfast Club.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "It was good to see Irvine Ferris on the trip and Darren Horsnell was presented with two mugs featuring his own artwork, thanks Claire Wright and Andy Graham for surprising him

"This is the first of many such trips where we will have a breakfast at a veterans' club and then visit a regimental museum."

On Saturday May 20 we will attend Bury Breakfast Club followed by a visit to the Fusilier Museum. At a date to be arranged, we will visit Tameside and then tour the Museum of the Manchester Regiment. For information on future trips call Tracy on 01706 833180.



VIC was very privileged to receive two bags of shopping from Haslingden Co-op to be distributed between needy veterans.

Tony talks

OUTREACH worker Tony Stubbs had his say on the new Manifesto proposed by The Royal British Legion. He hopes it will be adopted by the first Mayor of Greater Manchester following May's election.

What's On and Where

ROSSENDALE

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

Outreach Service

MONDAY-FRIDAY

10am-3pm

To book a home appointment call 01706 833180.

MONDAY

Crafty Chatters

10.30am-12.30pm

WEDNESDAY

Community Arts and Crafts

10am-noon

Computer Functional Skills

9.30am-12.30pm

Art Classes

2pm-4pm

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

THURSDAY

Rossendale Citizens' Advice (weekly)

by appointment only

Shelter (second Thursday only)

Morning

Singing Group (weekly)

6.30-8.30pm

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

Art Group and drop-in

11am-3pm

Walking Group

Morning

Walks will be held on alternate **THURSDAYS**, weather permitting. Log on to VIC Facebook page to see where the next walks will be.

Outdoor Activities

Log on to our website and follow the link on *Projects and Activities* to see what we have planned and how to book a place. A full leaflet is available.

Positive Art

Our art shop is now based at the **VIC Centre, Bury Road, Haslingden, BB4 5PL**, contact 01706 833180 for details.

VIC – 01706 833180

Contacts

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Project Worker Liz Davies
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Volunteer Outreach Worker Tony Stubbs
tonystubbs@vic.org.uk

Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell
darrenhorsnell@vic.org.uk

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

Transformational Coach Terry Morley
terrymorley@vic.org.uk

Singing Group Bookings Barry Hyde
barryhyde@vic.org.uk

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@ssafa.org.uk
01772 260 462

Rossendale Citizens' Advice

0300 456 2552 Mon to Fri 10am-4pm

The Samaritans

01706 830999 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

01772 426930

Veterans UK Free Helpline

0808 1914 218

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

01282 657116

HEYWOOD, MIDDLETON AND ROCHDALE

Outreach Service

MONDAYS

1-3pm

Recovery Republic, 63-65 York Street, Heywood OL10 4NR.

TUESDAY - alternate weeks

11am-3pm

Allotment, Latrigg Crescent, Langley, Middleton M24 4LU.

THURSDAY

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

10.30am-noon **VIC Outreach**, 1 Riverside, Rochdale OL16 1UB.

THURSDAY

11.30am-1.30pm Lighthouse Project, Unit S6b/c Middleton Shopping Centre, Limetrees Road, Middleton M24 4EL.

Walking Football

First Thursday only 1pm-3pm

Heywood Sports Village, West Starkey Street, Heywood OL10 4TW

Walking Group

Walks will be held on alternate **THURSDAYS** and are combined with Rossendale.

PENDLE

Outreach Service

10am-noon

MONDAY - first week only

Place de Creil, near Wilkos, Nelson.

MONDAY - second week only

Market Place Car park, Town Square Colne.

MONDAY - third week only

Town Square, Albert Road, Barnoldswick.

HYNDBURN

Outreach Service coming shortly

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www.veteransincommunities.org

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