

# Veterans celebrate Tommy's 94<sup>th</sup>

A SPECIAL celebration was held to help VIC's oldest member Tommy Norfolk mark his 94th birthday.

The party was organised by our Outreach Worker Claire Wright who arranged for Tommy's regimental association to provide him with a new tie, a regimental badge and buttons for a new blazer, which was paid for by members of VIC.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "It was a lovely celebration for Tommy



Tommy meets Fred (left) and Tommy with Lewis (above)

and the VIC Singing Group also gave an impromptu concert.

"Tommy entertained us all by singing a song and Lewis Banham, another VIC member who is 94 in

November, joined in." Tommy, who lives in sheltered

accommodation in Urmston, met Claire when he was singing on stage at an event in Longford Park, Stretford.

He was 18 when he left his job in 1940 to enlist initially in the Dorset Regiment.

After he completed his training at

Bournemouth, he then joined the Manchester Regiment and was posted to North Africa where in 1942 he joined the 2nd Special Air Service.

He carried out around 100 parachute jumps.

He also served in

Italy, Sicily and Austria.

Tommy is now one of the few survivors left from the Second World War.

At the party, Tommy also met Fred Wellman, 85, who served in the Dorset Regiment after the war, at a later time

## Paying our respects

**MEMBERS of VIC will be in attendance at Remembrance services across Rossendale.**

The VIC Singing Group will be performing at the Festival of Remembrance Concert at St Peter's Church, Haslingden, on November 6.

We will also be paying our respects on Friday November 11 at 11am at the War Memorial at Greenfield Gardens in Haslingden and the VIC Singing Group will be at Stacksteads Peace Garden for a service at 10.45am.



On Sunday November 13 we will be attending three different ceremonies.

In the morning we will be at Whitworth, then in the afternoon we will be represented at the service in Haslingden and the parade afterwards will conclude at the VIC Centre.

Also in the afternoon we will attend Bacup Cenotaph for a parade and service.

We are working with The Royal British Legion in Haslingden, to distribute poppies and collect monies.

Rossendale **alive**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**FESTIVAL OF REMEMBRANCE CONCERT**

**SUNDAY, 6th NOVEMBER, 2016**  
**ST. PETERS CHURCH, ST PETER'S AVENUE, HASLINGDEN**  
Concert begins at 2.00 p.m.

Featuring:  
**THE HASLINGDEN CONCERT BAND**  
and  
**THE VETERANS IN COMMUNITIES SINGING GROUP**

**Admission FREE**

Donations gratefully accepted for 'The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal'

**Come along and join in what is certain to be an uplifting experience**



## Bush craft

**NEXT** year, with the permission of United Utilities, VIC hopes to be able to offer taster sessions in bush craft.

Meetings have already been held with the ranger at Aitkin Woods, near Barley, Pendle.

VIC members Patrick O'Reilly and Mark Culshaw are part of the team who will be running this exciting new idea.

As soon as we have more details they will be released on our Facebook group and page.

## Healthy mind

**A MINDFULNESS and meditation taster session will be held on Saturday October 22 from 10am to 1pm.**

In Mind Therapies will deliver the session of mind, body, rest and relaxation.

It costs £25 and if it is popular it could lead to further taster sessions.

To book places contact 01706 833180 or email Admin Officer Tracy Keir at [tracykeir@vic.org.uk](mailto:tracykeir@vic.org.uk)

## Prize appeal

**PRIZES** are being sought by VIC for a raffle we are organising at **Rossendale Business Awards being held at The Riverside in Whitworth on Wednesday November 9.**

We already have several prizes including a trip to the dog racing at Belle Vue. Anyone who wants to donate can contact 01706 833180.

Veterans In Communities has also been nominated for an award.

**ALTHOUGH** our Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell didn't win the national final of Britain Has Spirit, we all had an amazing time in London and he will always be our champion. Thank you all for voting.



## Creative classes

**STUNNING** crafts created by our Monday group **Crafty Chatters** will be for sale at a craft fair near you shortly.

The group has been learning a variety of new

techniques from crochet to felting and book folding.

A recent meeting also learnt to make beautiful poppy wreaths like the one above that is now on display in the VIC Centre.



## Veterans get out and about

**TWO** trips have been held with the first from Clough Head Information Centre and Café in Haslingden taking in the beautiful views around Troy Quarry.

A further visit was to the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester where, although some sections were currently under renovation, there was still plenty to explore.

On October 27 there will be a five-mile walk around Bridlestones Rocks, Lydgate, Todmorden, on November 10 veterans will tour the Imperial War Museum, Salford, and Lowry Centre and a four-mile circular walk of Downham will be held on November 24.

Planning is now underway for the 2017 activities and to suggest a location or to book places call 01706 833180.

## Relocation

**A VETERAN** has been helped to relocate to Cornwall to be nearer his family.

Former firefighter and Headteacher at a school in Middleton, Paul Stott was helped by VIC Outreach Worker Tony Stubbs and member Keith Edgar.



At VIC he helped to run the Positive Art Shop and was a member of the art group.

Everyone at VIC wishes him well in his new home.

## Helping hand

**CREW Van** helped an entire school to complete a sponsored walk around Rossendale.

Students from Alder Grange School, Rawtenstall, took part in the walk to raise money for a school mini bus and our Crew Van provided the support vehicle.

## Quiz night

**VOLUNTEERS** are being sought to help VIC form two teams to take part in a quiz to raise money for the Mayor of Rossendale's charity.

On Friday October 28 the quiz will be held at Marl Pits in Rawtenstall and we are currently two people short of a second team.

## Qualified

**MIDDLETON** veteran Lee Farley has gained a Level 2 bricklaying qualification.

He helps with the Middleton allotment project.





## Sign course

**COURSES in British Sign Language in October and November are already fully booked.**

Lancashire Adult Education is running the courses and names are being taken for a waiting list and future courses.

An introduction to microwave cookery will be held on Wednesday November 23 from 9.30am-12.30pm and a four-week creative microwave cookery course will be held from Wednesday November 30 to Wednesday December 21 from 10am-noon.

For more information and to book a place contact Admin Officer Tracy Keir on 01706 833180 or email [tracykeir@vic.org.uk](mailto:tracykeir@vic.org.uk)



## illuminating displays

**ARTISTS were stunned by the visual masterpieces they saw as they explored the indoor illuminations at Illuminasia in Blackpool's Winter Gardens.**

A special art trip was organised by Lindsay McKinnon who is a member of the art group and promotes Illuminasia through social media.

Outdoor Activities Co-ordinator Ivy Limbrick said: "It was amazing and the photographs I took just don't do it justice, it has to be seen.

"In one part it is like you are in 'Honey I shrunk the Kids' because everywhere is large and in another there is a 3D film with a kaleidoscope effect, there is a laser show and there are so many different areas you can keep walking around.

"I must have taken more than 100 pictures and the veterans really loved it. We were also presented with two Chinese lanterns."

Veterans will now be creating art work from what they have seen to go on display in the Winter Gardens.



## Breakfast launch

**OUR members supported the launch of Bury Veterans' Breakfast Club at the Mosses Centre at the back of ASDA in Bury.**

Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth, his wife Maria and their son Adam, who is also a veteran, attended.



## Art class

**OUR Bob Ross painting classes have proved a huge success and artists will be tackling a new challenge later this month to paint a panda.**

Due to the popularity, there will be two classes on the weekend of October 22 and 23.

There is a limited number of places so it is first-come first-served. Each class costs £45 per person, including all materials. To book contact 01706 833180.



## School project

**VIC member Jimmy Kudritzki has gone back to school and is now working on a project at his former primary school St James CE in Haslingden.**

Over a series of weeks, we have been tasked with transforming an overgrown yard to improve an outdoor learning area.

We have weeded and filled raised beds with tonnes of compost and will be renovating, repainting and resiting the wendy house, making tyre characters and maintaining and weeding the raised beds.

Jimmy has been helped by Joe Davis and John Edwards.



## ROSSENDALE

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

### MONDAY-FRIDAY Outreach Services

11am-3pm  
(Home visits can be arranged)

**MONDAY**  
*Crafty Chatters*  
10am-12.30pm

**TUESDAY - second week only**  
*Quiz*  
7.30pm

**WEDNESDAY**  
*Community Arts and Crafts*  
10am-noon

*Computer Functional Skills*  
9.30am-12.30pm  
*Creative Writing*  
1pm-3pm

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

**THURSDAY**  
*Rossendale Citizens' Advice (weekly)*  
*Shelter (second Thursday only)*  
Morning  
*Singing Group (weekly)*  
6.30-8.30pm

**TUESDAY AND FRIDAY**  
*Art Group and drop-in*  
11am-3pm

**FRIDAY**  
*Lancashire Wellbeing Service*  
Morning

Walks will be held on alternate **THURSDAYS**, weather permitting. Follow VIC Facebook pages 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 *VIC Centre, Bury Road, Haslingden, BB4 5PL, contact 01706 833180 for details.*

## HEYWOOD, MIDDLETON AND ROCHDALE

**TUESDAY - alternate weeks**  
*Outreach Service*

11am-3pm  
Allotment, Lattrigg Crescent, Langley, Middleton M24 4LU.

**THURSDAY**  
9.30-10.30am Breakfast Club, Town Hall Bistro, Rochdale OL16 1UB.

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

**THURSDAY**  
*Outreach Service*  
11.30am-1.30pm  
Lighthouse Project, Cromer Mill Estate, Off Hilton Fold Lane, Middleton M24 2NB.

*Walking Group*  
Walks will be held on alternate **THURSDAYS** and are combined with the Rossendale walking group.

## BURNLEY AND 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.

**MONDAY - fourth week only**  
Town Centre, Burnley. to be confirmed.

## Contacts

### VIC – 01706 833180

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

Volunteer Outreach Worker and Music Project Co-ordinator Peter Webster  
peterwebster@vic.org.uk

Outdoor Activities Co-ordinator Ivy Limbrick  
ivylimbrick@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@ssafo.org.uk  
01772 260 462  
**Rossendale Citizens' Advice**  
0300 456 2552 (Mon - Fri 10.00 - 4.00)  
**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

## 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 BT MyDonate page

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

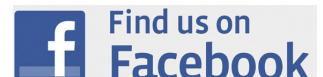
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