

*Pictures Liz Henson Photography*



# First World War project finishes

**ON A blustery autumnal day 100 people gathered at a hilltop cemetery for a ceremony to remember the men from Bacup who lost their lives in The Great War.**

The War Graves Dedication Service marked the conclusion of an 18 month project carried out by members of VIC.

Led by Peter Webster, a former military musician and musical director of

VIC Singing Group who sang at the service, the project sought to trace the graves and memorials of 120 soldiers.

Using the book 'Where Heroes Rest' written by local historian Wendy Lord, information from the Commonwealth Graves War Commission and cemetery maps from Rossendale Borough Council, the veterans began their military operation.

However, while

conducting the Heritage Lottery Funded project found 135 memorials. Some graves were previously unmarked as the keystone had been hidden over the years.

All now have a specially engraved stone made by Bacup stonemason Chislestone Memorials.

Peter said: "It has been a labour of love, we have had our ups and downs but at the end of the day it has

been worthwhile and I have learnt more about the First World War than I learnt in school."

Eileen Parkes, from Ramsbottom, whose great-uncle Fred Riding was the first Bacup soldier to have a military funeral in 2015, said: "It was very moving and it is good the soldiers are being remembered."

The ceremony was led by the Rev Gerald Higham, the Royal British Legion Chaplain who said:

"We must never ever let these sort of occasions fall by the wayside."

At the ceremony Sir David Trippier, former Rossendale and Darwen MP and president of the Helmshore branch of the Royal British Legion, praised the work that had been carried out.

"I don't think I have been to anything quite as significant as today's service," he said.

"Today, in particular, we will remember them."

Members of the Prince's Trust had also been involved in the project and Mayor of Rossendale Councillor Marilyn Proctor talked about how much the young people had gained.

Historian Wendy Lord was pleased with the service and is now considering writing a book honouring the Second World War heroes.



## Family visit to Brockholes



A FAMILY VIC visit to Brockholes Nature Reserve near Preston saw members wandering through the woods and spotting hidden sculptures.

Outdoor Activities Co-ordinator Ivy Limbrick said: "We also went on the floating visitor centre, enjoyed lunch in the café and spotted a number of beautiful butterflies. We will be returning to this venue."

## New art group

THE VIC art group is now starting an evening group every Thursday from 6-8pm at the centre in Haslingden.

The group covers all different arts and crafts including knitting, carving, card making or whatever suits those attending.

Art materials can be provided or you are welcome to bring your own. The cost is £3 per person per session.

For more information email [darrenhorsnell@veteransincommunities.org](mailto:darrenhorsnell@veteransincommunities.org) or call into the VIC Centre.

And the group has a new manager in Natalie Deighton.

Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren

Horsnell said he was very grateful to Natalie for taking on the role and she had been a huge asset.

## Picture course

TWO members of VIC were trained in how to take better wildlife photographs.

Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth and Outdoor Activities Co-ordinator Ivy Limbrick paid to attend a course at Leighton Moss near Carnforth.

Steve wanted to improve his photography to help with his artwork and Ivy wanted to make better use of her camera.



## Street fair fun



**WE WERE** out in force to support Haslingden Street Fair. The Singing Group was on the stage, crew van provided a base for an information stand and stall, we painted faces ran a bouncy castle and sold artwork.



## Team building

**TAKE** a handful of poles, some barrels and ropes and add a few veterans.

Then ask them to create a raft and steer it out onto Hollingworth Lane.

That was just one of the tasks on our team building day at Alternate Forces in Littleborough run by veteran Al Shingler.

VIC members joined Salford Veterans and members of Rochdale and Accross College for a series of challenges.

Outdoor Activities Co-ordinator Ivy Limbrick said: "They also had to get across the river using two barrels and everybody got wet."

"Then there was Gladiator-style fighting where they had to knock each other off a



platform and into the water.

"It was good for team building and morale. A lot of the times veterans don't get to meet each other and to chat. We will definitely be going back."

There have already been several requests on our Facebook group from people who want to attend the next event.

Three members of VIC: Tony Stubbs, Lee Coldwell and Keith Edgar, helped Al to renovate the former Sea Cadets hut into the Alternate Forces base.



## Art workshop

**ARTISTS** learnt how to paint in the style of Bob Ross at a special workshop held in the Positive Art shop.

The next workshop is on Saturday October 17, and classes are £35 per person for the day. All materials are supplied along with refreshments.

If you are interested in joining in the next group please contact [darrenhorsnell@veteransincommunities.org](mailto:darrenhorsnell@veteransincommunities.org)



## Crew Van's Capers

WHERE has Crew Van been this month...?

- It transported members to the War Graves Ceremony in Bacup;
- Crew Van helped take members on several walks and family days out.
- It was used at Haslingden Street Fair;
- Crew Van took members to Rochdale for a social inclusion / team building day.

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



# Introducing: Liz



**NEW Business, Development and Administrative Executive Liz Hamilton is bringing a wealth of experience into her new role at VIC.**

Liz, 42, from Bacup, has been working in the third sector for many years starting in April 1996 at Rossendale Hospice.

Her role was initially appeals director and latterly she was fundraising manager.

From there, Liz went to the Hyndburn and Ribbles Valley Domestic Violence Team as fundraising manager.

She became Carers Development Worker at Carers Contact where she supported carers from all over East Lancashire.

Liz became a senior

caseworker and then manager and in 2012 she was appointed chief executive of Carers Link Lancashire based in Accrington.

She said: "One of my first jobs was to bring the subcontractors back into the organisation and TUPE the staff back across. I also made the business into a limited company and undertook restructuring.

"I had just won a major contract for supporting adult carers, Carers Link had achieved the quality standard PQASSO so I knew the company was in a good position and I wanted to look for a job so I could be nearer home."

Liz is married to Derek 'Degs' who is an ex-Sapper and served in the Royal Engineers for 10 years. Her grandfather

served in the Lancashire Fusiliers and she has two teenage children.

"My role is to build links with the commissioners to make the organisation sustainable," she said.

"I also have to secure funding so we can carry out projects to meet the needs of the veterans and create a stable foundation of processes and systems that evidence what we do and the benefits it generates.

"I also need to promote VIC within the community, to get our organisation out there, and to get people to come into the centre in Haslingden and use our facilities."

Liz has a Masters degree in Medieval Welsh history and a post graduate certificate in voluntary and third sector management.



## Walks inspire art

**VIC members enjoyed a walk round Haslingden Grane in glorious sunshine.**

The walk took in both Jameston and Troy Quarries and veterans saw the damage done to the countryside by quarrying and how the land was slowly recovering and returning to nature.

The stunning environment that was left included water lilies and fish in the waters of Troy Quarry and prompted VIC artists to paint the scenery on their return.

Members also enjoyed a further visit to the Pendle Sculpture Trail when a planned walk had to be changed at the last minute.

## Dementia awareness

VIC hosted a Virtual Dementia Course over several days in September.

Participants got to experience what life for a person with dementia might be like. Their hearing, eyesight and mobility were all compromised and they were asked to complete tasks in a darkened room. Their reactions to the scenario were

analysed and discussed and they then learnt more about how to help and work with people who have dementia and simple steps to take.

Among the participants were care home owners and workers, members of the police, an A-level student, families living with dementia and interested parties.

All said it was a very useful workshop.

## Nomination

VIC and our Positive Art Shop have been nominated for Rossendale Business Awards.

VIC won community business of the year in 2013 and was highly commended last year.

The award ceremony is on November 11 when VIC Singing Group will be performing.

## Exhibition

ART created by members of the VIC art group will be on display at Touchstones Art Gallery in Rochdale.

From mid-November until mid-January the group will be displaying paintings, sculptures, poetry and art in its many different forms with more than 30 different pieces on display.



## Celebrating the '60s with art

OUR Positive Art Shop got into the '60s spirit when a festival was held in Rossendale.

The shop, on Bury Road, Rawtenstall, was decorated with specially made artwork in a

sixties style.

Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell said: "I would like to thank Natalie, Tracey and Pat for decorating the shop for the Rossendale '60s weekend."



## 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. Tel: 07731730442.

### 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

**Business Development and Administrative  
Executive Liz Hamilton**

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**07961 554 006**

**Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth**

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**Volunteer Outreach Worker Tony Stubbs**

[tonystubbs@veteransincommunities.org](mailto:tonystubbs@veteransincommunities.org)

**Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell**

[darrenhorsnell@veteransincommunities.org](mailto:darrenhorsnell@veteransincommunities.org)

**Volunteer Outreach Worker and Music Project**

**Co-ordinator Peter Webster**

[peterwebster@veteransincommunities.org](mailto: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

## Positive

One Stop Art Shop



VIC has its own arts and crafts  
shop based at 6 Bury Road,  
Rawtenstall, near the junction  
with Bacup Road.

### Opening times

Thursday	10am-5pm
Friday	10am-5pm
Saturday	10am-5pm
Sunday	11am-3pm

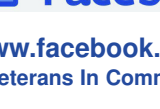
**Tel: 07437874696**

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