



We remembered them

FALLEN comrades and those who fought to keep our country free were remembered by members of VIC who attended Remembrance Services

across Lancashire.

In Rossendale our members joined the Royal British Legion, army cadets, uniformed movements and dignitaries in the Haslingden and Whitworth parades on Remembrance Sunday.

We welcomed people back to our headquarters at Bury Road to see the facilities and enjoy our hospitality.

At the service at St Peter's Church in Simonstone, VIC member and military musician Peter Webster played the Last Post.

Manager Bob Elliott said: "We were proud to be representing our charity and all those veterans whom we thank for their service and sacrifice in the wars and

conflicts over the years.

"Remembrance is a time for reflection and for many veterans it can be a difficult time.

"VIC is working hard to help veterans successfully make the transition from the Armed Forces back into Civvy Street by offering a variety of different projects.

"At any one time we have nearly 15 different projects on the go from outreach and family support to walking and courses to help people return to work and cope with personal issues."

VIC works with all ex-service personnel, including police, fire and ambulance and their families. Contact 01706 833180.



Pictures Liz Henson Photography

Business awards celebrations

WE HAD two reasons to celebrate at Rossendale Business Awards.

Firstly Veterans In Communities was Highly Commended in the Community Business category and our press officer Catherine Smyth was also Highly Commended in the Part-time Business category.

Manager Bob Elliott

said: "We were delighted to have the hard work of VIC acknowledged at the award ceremony.

"It is fantastic for the team to receive this recognition of the excellent work that they are doing in communities all over Lancashire.

"VIC is really making a difference and expanding our offering to help even more veterans."





A family reunited

A FAMILY has been reunited with their long lost relative thanks to a war graves initiative carried out by veterans.

Gunner Cecil Kershaw, from Stacksteads, died on the August 17 1919 aged 22, 20 months after the hospital ship Rews, that was bringing him home, was torpedoed by the Germans in the Bristol Channel.

He served in the Royal Marine Artillery and was being brought home after contracting exposure and pleurisy while in Northern Italy.

His great nephew Peter Wood said: "I have been brought up hearing tales of my Great Uncle Cecil from my family and he is remembered on the war memorials in the cemetery in Bacup, at Waterbarn Baptist Church, at Tricketts Memorial in Waterfoot and the Mechanics Institute in Bacup.

"We knew he was buried in Bacup Cemetery but never knew where until now."

The family were all very grateful to VIC who have worked throughout the year to locate and properly mark the graves of nearly 120 First World War soldiers.

Peter added: "This is a really moving project that the veterans have carried out and we are very grateful that there are people who care."

Project co-ordinator Peter Webster said he felt privileged to be able to reunite the Kershaw family with their relative's last resting place.

He was contacted by Cecil's great-nephew asking if his relative's grave was on the list to be marked and they met up at the grave side

"This is what this project is all about," said Peter. "It is a good feeling being able to reunite them and it was so

nice being able to meet relatives of one of the soldiers."

Many of the soldiers buried or remembered in Bacup Cemetery did not have grave-stones, just a keystone bearing their initials and the number of their grave. Over time these had fallen, grass grown over and their last resting place left a mystery.

Using the book 'Where Heroes Rest' written by Bacup historian Wendy Lord and information from the Commonwealth Graves War Commission, the graves were located and memorial stones were created by Chiselstones Memorials, Bacup.

The project was funded by a Heritage Lottery Grant and has been carried out by volunteers from Veterans In Communities and the Prince's Trust.

Care for a course?

THREE courses are being offered by Access Ability at the VIC Centre in Haslingden.

On December 8 there will be a Mental Health Awareness course.

On December 16 the charity will be running a British Sign Language and Deaf Awareness course and on January 15 and 16 a two-day Mental Health First Aid Awareness course will be held.

To enroll contact VIC on 01706 833180.

Accessorise

JUST in time for Christmas the VIC range of merchandise has been expanded to include umbrellas and pashminas.



To see the range of VIC logo products call in to the Haslingden centre.

To find out what we have in stock call Darren Horsnell on 01706 833180.



Can we fix it?

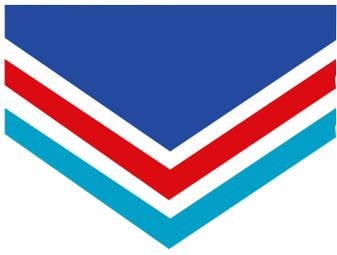
WE WERE asked by Heywood and District Angling Society to help them demolish a wall and to generally clean up a car parking area.

VIC members from the Heywood Outreach and the VIC Centre spent a couple of hours on the community project getting to grips with cleaning the area up.

Some of the members also got to spend time fishing afterwards as a reward for their hard work to improve the car park.



You bet we can!



Tenor Sean aids singers to take note

INTERNATIONAL tenor Sean Ruane gave our singing group a boost before its first major performance at the Festival of Remembrance concert in Whitworth.

Sean, who hails from Bacup, told singers he had been following their progress on social networking sites Twitter and Facebook.

The group meets on Thursday evenings at the VIC Centre under the musical direction of Peter Webster.

They sang The Homeground Anthem, which was recorded as a charity single by Russell Watson but has been released for the group to sing by the song's writer Owen Shead, and You

Raise Me Up.

Sean then selected sections of the performance and gave the group pointers on how to improve ahead of the concert – including the

Northern pronunciation of certain words.

He said: "They loved being together and enjoying music and they have a good leader in Peter.

"It is about picking music that the group can perform to give the members a boost and it was obvious that they were enjoying singing together."



Spooky night

A HALLOWE'EN fundraiser at the IDL Club in Haslingden raised £100 for VIC.

The fun night was organised by Darren Horsnell and his fiancée Tracey Vick who set a series of spooky questions. A great time was had by all who attended.

Thanks for help

DONATIONS to help VIC have been gratefully received this month.

We received a donation from a Christmas Fair that was held in Haslingden and a further donation was given to Outreach and Community Development Worker Suzanne Preston from the Over 55s Club at Newchurch Methodist Church.

All donations help VIC to continue with our work in the community.



Making the grade

ARTISTIC school St Mary's in Rawtenstall has made the grade and been awarded the prestigious Artsmark.

VIC has worked on a number of projects at the school, including many relating to the First World War commemorations and was delighted to be invited to attend the ceremony.

High school remembers

A MOVING Remembrance Assembly was held at Alder Grange Community Technology School, Rawtenstall, when members of VIC were on the guest list.

A video presentation that had been made by Year 9 pupils was shown before awards were presented to pupils who had created artwork.

D-Day veteran Scots Guardsman Ted Davidson also gave a moving talk on his war service.

VIC member Peter Webster played the Last Post and a minute silence was observed.

Bob said: "The school also organised a non-uniform day to raise money for VIC – but many came to school in uniforms such as army cadets and Scouts.

"It was a fantastically well-organised event and a fitting end to the school's week-long series of activities around Remembrance.

"Pupils had written poems and made models of war memorials as well as painting pictures for our VIC competition. Six of the paintings were judged the best by Steve and Darren and will be included in our calendar for next year."



ROSSENDALE

Outreach Services

MONDAY-FRIDAY

11am-1pm

VIC Centre, Bury Road, Haslingden,
BB4 5PL.

MONDAY

10-12 noon

Bacup Library, St James Square, Bacup,
OL13 9AH.

Family Support

MONDAY - third week only

10am-noon

Maden Centre, Rochdale Road, Bacup,
OL13 9NZ.

WEDNESDAY

10am-1pm

VIC Centre, Bury Road, Haslingden,
BB4 5PL.

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.

ROCHDALE AND HEYWOOD

Family Support

MONDAY - first week only

10.30am-noon

High Level, Drake Street, Rochdale, OL16
1PB.

MONDAY - second week only

10.30am-noon

Crimble Croft Community Centre, Aspinall
Street, Heywood, OL10 4HW.

Outreach Service

WEDNESDAY

11am-2.30pm

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

Badminton

3pm-4pm

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

Walking Group

Walks will be held on the 2nd and 4th

Thursdays combined with the Rossendale
walking group.

PENDLE

Outreach Service

TUESDAY

10am-noon

Railway Street Community Centre,
Railway Street, Nelson, BB9 9EH.

VIC – 01706 833180

Manager Bob Elliott

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07961 554 006

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Worker Suzanne Preston

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Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth

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Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell

darrenhorsnell@veteransincommunities.org

War Graves 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...

THIS month our Dig for VIC project, to develop the rear of our centre in Haslingden, has moved on further with the base and frame now in place for a workshop/shed.

We are waiting for better weather to further develop this project, which I am sure you will agree will enhance the activities we can offer our veterans.

We were seen across the area joining in acts of Remembrance this month and it was especially good to see a large number of young people taking part in these services from uniformed movements and the cadets.

Thanks to Alternate Forces, some members of VIC will be put through their paces this month at Outdoor Elements in Simonstone when they take part in archery, bushcraft, high ropes and a 100m zip line.

Our projects not only made the press this month but also featured on BBC Radio Lancashire. If you are in Haslingden and want to learn more about what we do, please call in.

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

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