



# VIC Newsletter

## Mayor says thank you

VIC received a donation from the retiring Mayor of Ribble Valley Councillor Tony Austin, from funds raised during his year of office.

We opened our drop in, coffee morning and outreach in Clitheroe during Armed Forces Week in June last year, and Councillor Austin came along to the first session and kindly agreed that his Mayoral fund would assist the charity.

Initially, VIC Ribble Valley was based in The Family Thrive Centre near the market, but since then it has successfully relocated to Trinity Methodist Church and Community Centre on Parson Lane, Clitheroe.

On presenting the



cheque, for £1,500, Councillor Austin highlighted how the world had changed in the last year, with the Taliban now back in charge of Afghanistan and Russia's Vladimir Putin waging war on Ukraine.

He said: "Our armed forces are even more important now, and it is vital there are organisations to support them when they leave the services.

"We were not able to do as many fund-raising activities as we would have liked over the year, because of Covid and I was also in hospital.

"We first came to see VIC just before I was ill and I promised to use my year to raise some money for the charity.

"I think this new location is a superb improvement, it is a really nice environment with much more space

and it is more social.

"There are a lot more people coming here now than there were on that first occasion."

Project Worker Ray Sharkey said: "VIC Ribble Valley is going great guns and we now have more than 20 people attend every week.

"The new venue has made a massive difference and we are very grateful for the donation."

And Councillor



Austin joined VIC Ribble Valley members on a social inclusion outing to Bury's Fusilier Museum when they had a guided tour and learned all about the last British unit to guard Napoleon on St Helena before he died.

Project Worker for Hyndburn and Ribble Valley Ray Sharkey said: "We also learned how the Fusiliers were awarded six Victoria Crosses before breakfast at Gallipoli during the First World War and much more regimental history too."

VIC Ribble Valley Coffee Morning is held every week from 10am-noon at Trinity Methodist Church and Community Hub, Clitheroe, Wesleyan Row, Parson Lane, Clitheroe BB7 2JY.

## Evicted guardsman now rehomed

**WHEN a veteran Guardsman was illegally evicted from his flat, VIC swung into action to relocate him to new accommodation in Great Harwood.**

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "The veteran had been illegally evicted overnight for no just cause, by a landlord who then disposed of the old soldier's belongings, without consent.

"VIC was assisted in the endeavour by a volunteer team of fellow veterans who were only too keen to help out their brother in his time of

greatest need.

"Working with other agencies, including Stepping Stones, VIC supported him in his journey to first find a temporary home and he is now finally in a new permanent place.

"The goods donated allowed this veteran the chance to start thinking of it as a home, one free from the fear of illegal eviction.

"Heartfelt thanks go out to Dave and Paola Crozier for donating the flat contents and Ruby & Daisy clothing for their continual support and the loan of their very large



van, we at VIC salute you."

● The local authority is pursuing a prosecution of his previous landlord.

### VIC Sunday

**WE ARE trialling a short Sunday opening at the VIC Centre from 10.15am-12.30pm. A skeleton staff will be present and veterans can drop in and enjoy a brew, banter and board games.**



## VIC 10 year celebration

**TICKETS for our 10th anniversary celebration event at Burnley Football Club will be available soon.**

Please save the date in your diaries – Friday September 30.

Chief Executive Amanda Walton said: “Thank you to the corporate sponsors who have already come forward and we are looking for more altruistic businesses who want to give back to their community by sponsoring a table.

“This will be a fantastic celebration of everything that VIC has achieved over 10 years. There will be delicious food and lots of entertainment.”

Contact 01706 833180.

## Crown green bowling

**VIC is looking to set up crown green bowling teams in each of its areas in East Lancashire and Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale.**

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: “We had originally talked about doing this before Covid, but obviously the pandemic changed things. Now that everything is getting back to normal, we have decided to try to get the teams going and set up a league.”

Call 01706 833180.



## Museum visit

**MEMBERS enjoyed a social inclusion outing to the Lancashire Infantry Museum at Fulwood Barracks in Preston.**

Although the museum is quite small, it is worth a visit and, as the VIC Centre was open, they called in to enjoy a brew and toast member Maureen Hoyle's birthday.

More social inclusion trips out are planned for the next few months at VIC.

Make sure you check out the Facebook page or your outreach team to find out all the places to visit.

**Tuesday August 9** there will be an early start for those visiting the passing out parade at the Army Foundation College in



Harrogate as the VIC minibus will leave at 8am.

**Saturday August 13**, lunch will be enjoyed at The Mill, Lostock Hall, Preston, cost £3 for transport only.

**Thursday September 1**, a trip will be held to the Royal Armouries in Leeds, cost £10 leaving at 9.30am.

**Thursday October 6**, there is a trip to Queen Street Textile Mill and Museum in Burnley, cost £5.

**Thursday October 27**, VIC will be visiting the National Arboretum with our friends from Burnley FC in the Community at 9.30am.

For more details about trips contact Social Inclusion Activities Volunteer Pat McEvoy on 01706 833180.



## Walking group

**THE VIC Walking Group enjoyed a lovely walk from the White House Public House, Littleborough, along the first reservoir and then down into Warland.**

We then went

along the Rochdale Canal towards Summit and completed a long climb back to the start.

Our final walk will be a nine-miler on Thursday August 4 at 9.30am when we will

be walking the Warkers Trail starting at the car park at Jumbles Country Park, Bolton.

Suitable clothing and footwear must be worn. There is a cafe at the end for refreshments.



## Food help

**VIC volunteers helped out Burnley FC in the Community to collect food from Tesco in Burnley.**

The store provided vouchers for the veterans to fill trolleys with food and essential items, Tesco covered the cost and all the items were then given to the local food bank for those in need.

## Zip wire fun

**WE HAVE seven daring VIC members who will be hurtling themselves down a 100mph zip wire in Wales to raise money for VIC.**

They are now all busy collecting sponsorship for VIC and preparing themselves for the white knuckle challenge on Sunday September 11.

Velocity 2 is based in Penrhyn Slate Quarry in Wales and is Europe's fastest zip wire.

## Whitehough

**VIC veterans enjoyed a fun-filled day of activities and banter with veterans from Burnley FC in the Community at Whitehough in Pendle.**

Look out for our August newsletter for a full round up and photos of the day.



## Bench help

**A HUGE thank you, especially to people in Helmshore, as VIC received many generous donations of bench ends to help us fulfil an order for Salford.**

We have been asked to make eight of our special memorial benches, with hard wearing sapele wood for Salford Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club CIC and these will commemorate VC holders and go into a memorial garden.

## Breakie time

**VIC members attended the Accrington Stanley Community Trust veterans Breakfast at the Carers Link in Accrington and it was great to see the veterans from Burnley FC in the Community group there as well.**

The Breakfast Club meets on the last Wednesday of every month.



**Thank you to VIC volunteer Ron Flowers for arranging for Rod Ross and Col Martin Newman to deliver a talk on British Jews in the First World War. The talk is the first of many we will be arranging on military history over the next few months.**

## Final farewell to sailors

**VIC supported the final farewell for two Navy veterans.**

Earlier this month, Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth, was asked to find a bugler for a Falklands Veteran from Accrington who served on

HMS Broadsword.

Steve said: "One of his shipmates is a friend of mine, who lives in Sunderland, he got in touch with me and I arranged standards and Hattie to play the Last Post; there was a great turnout."

"I also attended another funeral at Bury Parish Church, for a 38-year-old Royal Navy veteran. I went representing VIC and the Bury Borough Veterans' Association. The service was very well attended."

## Blooming marvellous

**AHEAD of Britain in Bloom judges descending on Rawtenstall, VIC was involved in tending a flowerbed at Sparrow Park and helping to green up Positive Start.**

VIC was asked to come up with a theme for one of the flowerbeds adjacent to the Cenotaph and as this is the 40th anniversary of the Falklands Conflict and the 10th anniversary of VIC, the bed celebrates both events.

Falklands veteran and Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth said: "The display portrays the Falkland Islands themselves using various ground cover plants and little signs to show the most relevant places and mountains which saw significant action during the conflict, the number 40 alongside completes the design."

"In each corner of the bed, are sea cabbages, which grow prolifically on the shorelines of the beaches of the islands. At the rear of the display, is a wooden edging painted in the medal ribbon colours of the conflict.

"The wooden signs were laser etched and constructed by two VIC members, hopefully they complement the display and we have also incorporated the VIC logo."

VIC Trustee Jo Shakeel is also involved with Positive Start where VIC have provided assistance to the Food Group for many years and the building was once an art shop for VIC.

Jo asked VIC to assist in giving the prominent building on Bury Road, across from the fire station, a green makeover ahead of the Britain in Bloom judges checking the town out.

## Made to measure planters

**ONE of the many VIC planters is now blooming lovely outside the home of Administrator Amy Thompson.**

She said: "I'm really pleased with my planter made by Veterans In Production. I've painted it up and made myself into a huge sweaty mess planting it up, but it was worth it and I'm chuffed to bits with it."

VIP makes all sorts of items to order – contact 01706 833180 for more details.





## ROSSENDALE

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

### Outreach Service

**MONDAY-FRIDAY**

9am-4.30pm

For a home appointment call 01706 833180

### MONDAY

#### Crafty Chatters

10am-12 noon

### TUESDAY

#### Art Group

10am-3.30pm

Cost £6 places limited book on

01706 833180

### WEDNESDAY

#### Allotment

Help on the allotment in Holcombe Road, Helmshore. Contact 01706 833180

### THURSDAY

#### Greggs RV

1pm-3pm

### THURSDAY

#### VIC Choir (weekly)

6.30-8.30pm

### FRIDAY

#### Art Group

10am-3.30pm

Cost £6 places limited book on

01706 833180

### SUNDAY

#### Drop-in

(PILOT PROJECT)

10.15am-12.30pm

### SECOND SATURDAY IN THE MONTH

#### Rossendale Armed Forces and Veterans' Breakfast Club

10am-12.30pm

Haslingden Community Link Cafe, Bury Road, Haslingden BB4 5PG (book in advance)

### EVERY MONTH

#### Painting in the Style of Bob Ross art classes

Contact Darren 01706 833180

Walking Group/ Social Inclusion trips see Facebook or website for details

10am-noon

Trinity Methodist Church, Wesleyan Row, Parson Lane, Clitheroe, BB7 2JY.

## BURNLEY AND PENDLE

### Outreach Service

### MONDAY

Breakfast Club at Burnley Miners Social Club, 27a Plumbe Street, Burnley, BB11 3AA. 10am-noon

Contact 01706 833180 for dates of outreach at Burnley FC in the Community, the Pendle Armed Forces Support Group, Holmefield House, Gisburn Road, Barrowford, at Morrisons in Nelson and Asda in Colne.

## HEYWOOD, MIDDLETON AND ROCHDALE

### The Sandbag Cafe and drop in

### TUESDAY

10am-noon

Sandon House, Taylor Street, Heywood OL10 1EF.

### VIC Outreach

### TUESDAY

#### The Mess Tin - cafe and drop in

1pm-2.30pm

The Lighthouse Project, Middleton Shopping Centre, M24 1AB.

### THURSDAY

#### Rochdale Veterans' Breakfast Club and VIC Outreach

9am-10.30am Touchstones Cafe, The Esplanade OL16 1AQ.

## RIBBLE VALLEY

### Coffee Morning and Outreach

### TUESDAYS

## VIC – 01706 833180

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Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell

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Veterans Mental Health Caseworker Cath Mitton

cathmitton@vic.org.uk

VIC Choir Bookings Barry Hyde

barryhyde@vic.org.uk

## Contacts

### Combat Stress Helpline

0800 138 1619

### NHS Military Veterans Psychological Therapies Service (NW)

0300 323 0707

### The Royal British Legion

0808 802 8080 7 days a week 8am-8pm

### SSAFA

email Lancashire@ssafo.org.uk

01772 260 462

### Citizens' Advice Rossendale and Hyndburn

0808 278 7975 freephone Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

### The Samaritans

01282 694929

Mon to Fri 9am-9pm

Freephone 116 123

### Op Courage

0800 652 2867 seek a referral through a GP or health professional

### Veterans UK Free Helpline

0808 1914 218

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

01282 657116

### Armed Forces Support Group

01282 613132

## HYNDBURN

### Outreach / Drop In/ Model Railway Club

### FRIDAY

10am-3pm

VIC Hyndburn, Accrington Arndale Centre, BB5 1EX.

### Accrington Stanley Breakfast Club/ Drop In

### LAST WEDNESDAY EVERY MONTH

9.30am-11am

Lancashire Carers Link, 54-56 Blackburn Road, Accrington, BB5 1LE.

## BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN

### Outreach Service

### TUESDAY

Rovers Breakfast Hub, Legends Lounge, Darwen End, Blackburn Rovers FC, Ewood Park, Blackburn, BB2 4JF.  
10.30am-noon


## Want to help?

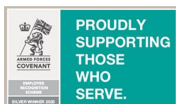
To donate to support the work of VIC please visit our website

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

Veterans In Communities Charity Number 1151194

VIC supported

by:  East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group




 Rossendale *alive* BOROUGH COUNCIL



 ROCHDALE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL



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