



Lest we forget

MEMBERS of VIC paid their respects for the fallen at services and parades all over East Lancashire, Greater Manchester, London and beyond.

We even had a presence in Florida, as volunteer Pat McEvoy has relocated to her resort home for six months.

Last year, Covid 19 prevented the annual marches taking place, but this year there was an increase in numbers at every act of remembrance.

Members also supported The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and attended the Festival of Remembrance at Blackburn Cathedral.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "Although Remembrance is a time for remembering and reflecting on the sacrifice made by those who have served and their families, it is also a time to catch up with old friends and make new friends.

"Our members attended and laid wreaths at several services across Rossendale, Burnley, Hyndburn, Clitheroe, Heywood, Middleton, Rochdale, Oldham, Bury and

Ramsbottom.

"We also had Andy Holder in Gibraltar and Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth along with members Jacko Pearce and Darren Veevers were at the London Cenotaph."

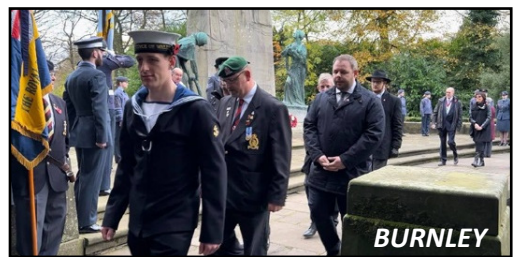
In Haslingden, there was a service at Greenfield Gardens and then the parade marched past the VIC Centre in Bury Road.

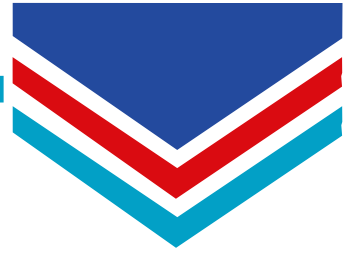
At Bacup Cemetery 99-year-old D-Day veteran Lewis Banham attended a wreath laying service.

In Stacksteads, the VIC Choir joined veterans and dignitaries to sing at the Amistice Day service.

Haslingden Royal British Legion standard bearer Millie Thompson, whose mum Amy is secretary of the local branch and VIC's Administrator, not only carried the standard in Haslingden, but also at an Act of Remembrance at Burnley Football Club before the European qualifier for England U21s against the Czech Republic.

VIC members were in attendance when Middleton in Bloom committee and designers Sign and Print Direct unveiled The Middleton Remembers display.





The Mess Tin – Middleton



Drop in – Hyndburn



The Sandbag Cafe – Heywood



Coffee morning – Ribble Valley



Nursery help

VOLUNTEERS helped to build flat-pack furniture for Mulberry Roots Nursery, which is on the same road as our VIC Centre

It was a very satisfying job, especially when veterans saw the smiles on the faces of the children when they saw the finished seating and they got to try it out.

Over the last two years, we have also made a bug hotel and bench for them and value their support.

Training group's aid to veterans

WHEN the North Lancs Training Group held a team brief at Accrington Town Hall, VIC was asked to have a stall which raised around £120, mostly from donations.



Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "We would like to thank their staff for their generous donations and to Michael Nutter for

arranging it." NLTG has now generously provided a further £300 donation to VIC.

Awards finalist

VIC is delighted to have been selected as a finalist in the Not For Profit category of the Rossendale Business Awards.

Thank you so much to whoever nominated us, and congratulations to all the other finalists.

Bailey joins VIC

VIC has welcomed a student from the North Lancs Training Group as part of a 22-week placement.

Former student at Belmont School Bailey Ralphs, is now volunteering in the VIC Hyndburn shop on Fridays alongside helping with maintenance jobs around the VIC Centre on Wednesdays.

Bailey, 17, from Rawtenstall, said: "I decided to join VIC to gain work experience, and while I am unsure on what I want to do as a career, I am interested in construction and joinery, and I may consider a job in the military.

"Everyone has been really welcoming, and I've settled in well."

He has already helped to build shelves for a storage room in the centre.

With winter approaching, he is helping members with a 'spring clean' and, once the weather improves, Bailey will get involved in making items for Veterans in Production from recycled pallets.



Safe talk course

A COURSE was held at the VIC Centre run by Lancashire County Council Public Health to aid suicide prevention.

The Suicide Safe Talk course was not only aimed at those working with vulnerable people, but anyone in the community. Suicide can be prevented if people recognise the signs and know who to contact.

Shoebox appeal

OUR friends at Burnley FC are appealing for donations of empty shoeboxes which will be used for a Christmas gift appeal.

Donations can be handed in to the Jimmy McIlroy Stand.

For more information contact Hayley Barsby by email on h.barsby@burnleyfc.com or call 07809 908 536.



Memory blanket



A BEAUTIFUL memory blanket has been made by members of the Crafty Chatters group at VIC.

Crafty Chatters members Janet and Jane took old shirts and made them into patchwork panels and added an embroidered

*Made from clothes
I used to wear
Hold me close
And I'll be there
XXX*

centrepiece.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "I would personally like to thank the ladies from the VIC Crafty Chatters group for making this blanket for me.

"Last year my dad passed away during the Covid lockdown, and my mum is

suffering from Alzheimer's.

"This blanket has been made using his old clothes which I'm sure she will recognise and give her some comfort as she is currently in hospital.

"So, on behalf of the family, a very big heartfelt thanks ladies. When you gave me the blanket, I couldn't believe what you had made out of some old clothes."

Thank you

A PYROGRAPHY plaque was made by veteran Brian McEvoy for Matthew Devlin of Ninja Coffee.

Brian made the plaque to say thank you for Ninja's support of VIC over the last year and he incorporated the Ninja Coffee logo into the artwork.



Silhouettes

STUNNING silhouette free standing soldiers were created by VIC members to mark Remembrance.

A few of the 2021 design of 'We Salute You' are still available to buy from VIC Hyndburn and the VIC Centre priced £20.

There are already plans to create new statues featuring different designs for 2022. For more information contact 01706 833180.



Remembrance gift

THE entrance hall at the VIC Centre is being changed to accommodate a large poppy plaque and Remembrance book.

The very generous donation was anonymously given to the charity.

It was specially made to honour the fallen and includes a Remembrance book with the name of every armed forces personnel member who has died in service since 1968, and a second book where people can write their own personal tributes.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "The donor made this to be visible to anyone who walks into a veterans' centre and we are reorganising our memorial wall to accommodate it.

"The large wooden poppy will be central with the table underneath and the books on top.

"Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth will also be painting that section of the reception wall green. We are very grateful to the donor, and we are looking forward to being able to give this tribute a proper home."

Hardwood bench

BEAUTIFUL memorial benches are being created by Veterans In Production.

Using sustainable hardwood, stained sepele timber, and powder coated metal bench ends, David Green and

Graham Limb are creating the benches which will be



available to buy at a cost of £600.

For more information contact 01706 833180.

Lewis visits youth

CUBS and Beavers from 2nd Rossendale Scout Group in Bacup were delighted when they were visited by D-Day veteran Lewis Banham.

Lewis, who had just celebrated his 99th birthday, was even given a 'Happy Birthday' serenade.

He joined the group as they painted pebbles to place on the graves and memorial stones in Bacup Cemetery, which were installed as part of VIC's War Graves 100 project.





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

VIC Choir (weekly)

6.30-8.30pm

FRIDAY

Art Group

10am-3.30pm

Cost £6 places limited book on

01706 833180

SECOND SATURDAY IN THE MONTH

Rossendale Armed Forces and Veterans' Breakfast Club

10am-12.30pm

Haslingden Community Link Cafe, Bury Road, Haslingden BB4 5PG

Limited numbers book in advance

EVERY MONTH

Painting in the Style of Bob Ross art classes Contact Darren 01706 833180

Walking Group see Facebook or website for details

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 Mill, 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

10am-noon

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

VIC – 01706 833180

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Volunteer Support Worker Mel Fitzgerald

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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.

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?

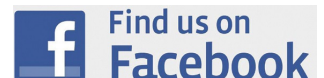
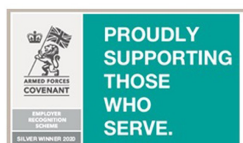
To donate to support the work of VIC please visit our website and click on the secure Virgin Money Giving link

www.veteransincommunities.org/donate.html

Veterans In Communities Charity Number 1151194

VIC supported

by:  East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group



Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com
VIC Veterans In Communities