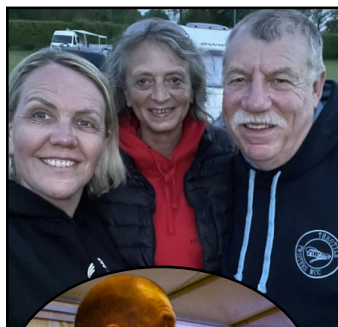




VIC Newsletter



VIC on tour

A FANTASTIC time was had by all on the first VIC Camping trip to Sycamore Farm near Alderley Edge in Cheshire.

We joined our friends from the Throttle Twisters Motor Cycle Club, from Chadderton, who had organised the weekend away.

The campsite was spacious and set in stunning grounds with sheep and lambs bleating in a nearby field, a nature area to walk around, a zip wire and children's play area and a marquee for the rock night.

It was another outing for our new VIC Minibus and our gazebo provided a brew station.

Most of the VIC members were under canvas, but Operations Manager Bob Elliott opted for the 'penthouse' apart-

ment above the utilities block.

He said: "Everyone had a great time and it was good for our members to have downtime together in what was a lovely location.

"The entertainment on Saturday night in the marquee was excellent and Smudge will be playing again when the Throttle Twisters hold their annual fund-raising event for VIC in October."

On the Friday, members met up around a firepit to chat and socialise and then on Saturday, members chilled on the site in the glorious sunshine, or explored the area with its many attractions.

A bucket was passed around on the Saturday evening and the collection, plus donations, raised

£527.

Chief Executive Amanda Walton, one of the campers, said: "I would like to personally thank everyone who came along to the event – we all had an excellent weekend.

"The VIC members who attended thoroughly enjoyed it and hopefully will return next year, it would be great if we can also book the fabulous sunshine that we had this time.

"The donation will be used to support various social activities including the arts and crafts group, the model railway club and our social coffee groups. It will all go to support our beneficiaries."



Great start for new Sandbag

OUR weekly Sandbag Café has relocated. The new venue is at St George's Church, Preston, and the first meeting was held on St George's Day.

The new outreach has been established as a joint venture between VIC and the Lancashire Armed Forces Association.

The two groups have been working with each other for some time and there are exciting plans for the Armed Forces Community in Preston.

The new venue is a drop-in and is being run by Outreach Worker from VIC Steve Butterworth and Lancashire



Armed Forces Association member Mark Dilworth, who was formally of the Wings Centre in Preston, which has now closed.

The Sandbag provides informal social activities for veterans to enjoy and both Steve and Mark have years of experience of supporting veterans and can deal with welfare concerns.

For more information contact 01706 833180.



Dioramas on display

VIC Hyndburn drop-in will be opening its doors on Saturday June 1 while the Accrington Food Festival is being held.

Members of the Model Railway Club, which meet in the basement of the

drop-in in Accrington Arndale Centre, have been making dioramas of D-Day including Pegasus Bridge.

These will be on display on the Saturday and then they are going to be on display at Fulwood Barracks in Preston.



Project Worker Ray Sharkey met with workers from Healthwatch Lancashire to explain the impact of military hearing loss and how some veterans have struggled to access healthcare.

Photo Bernard Tighe



Busy May for VIC Choir

THE VIC Choir entertained shoppers at Rawtenstall Tesco in May and raised £252.60 to support the charity.

Many thanks to Community Champion Emma Bailey, staff and customers and volunteer collectors Jacko Pierce and Margaret.

The choir also

performed at the VE Day celebrations held at Greenfield Gardens, Haslingden.

On Saturday June 8 the choir will be at Asda Rawtenstall from 1pm and on Friday June 14 they will be singing at 12.30pm at Burnley Tesco when a Community Pop-Up Event is held.



RIP Barnsey

IT IS with great sadness that we have to report the passing of Ann Barnes – Barnsy – who was a frequent visitor to the VIC Centre in Haslingden.

Barnsy, as she preferred to be known, was an RAF veteran and had served in Aden.

She was a real character and would often go on VIC social trips, attended the Clitheroe outreach and supported the choir when they performed at supermarkets. Barnsy was also a regular at the Greggs RV and Quiz and she will be sadly missed by everyone.

She liked a man in uniform and was a real character. Veterans attended her funeral on May 30 at Accrington Crematorium and Standards were on display.



What a whopper

ARTS and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell caught a personal best when fishermen friends in Brittany left him in charge of their lines while they went to lunch.

Darren said: "I wasn't happy with

how one was set so I reeled it in and cast it out to a better location. Then I caught a carp on the line that I relocated.

"It weighed 53lb 7oz in the net and 47lb 20 oz out of the net. That was a personal best for me, but I still want to land a 50lb carp."



Wildlife photography in focus

TWO photography talks were delivered by VIC member and army veteran Duncan Phillips.

Duncan, who has a photography gallery near

Clitheroe Castle, gave an illustrated talk to the Redoubt VIC Ribble Valley outreach in Clitheroe and at the VIC Centre in Haslingden.



Support

VETERANS who are struggling after the passing of someone special can get support from Veterans' Bereavement Support Services.

The charity supports anyone serving or who has served in the Armed Forces and Merchant Navy and the Emergency Services Family.

Support includes ongoing bereavement care for families and friends. Contact 0345 222 1525.

D-Day parade

VETERANS and Association Standards are invited to join a D-Day Anniversary Parade and Service in Blackburn Cathedral on Sunday June 9.

The parade will form on Brown Street Car Park, Blackburn, BB1 6HQ and march alongside cadets and police to the Cathedral for a service at 4pm.

VIC open

BEING open and available when veterans need support has always been part of the VIC ethos and so our centre in Haslingden was open over both May Bank Holidays for a brew and a natter.

Allotment

OUR Helmshore allotment is taking shape with plants and veg growing and the beds ready for planting, all thanks to volunteer Jack's hard work.

However, please, if you are visiting the site, do not leave rubbish behind.



Rhino raises £205

A HUGE rhino painting created by Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell now has a new home with Kath Leaver in Clitheroe.

The oil painting was created by Darren to raise funds for creative activities at VIC and as a thank you to the charity for the support he has received over the years.

Raffle tickets were sold and raised £205 Darren delivered the painting in person. He is now organising a new raffle – and the winner will get an oil painting picture of their own pet, painted to order.



The retiring Mayor of Hyndburn Councillor Terry Hurn presented Project Worker Ray Sharkey with a certificate of thanks from the Mayor for VIC's work in the borough.



Novice painters shine

ARTISTS tackled a tricky local scene at the April painting in the style of Bob Ross class.

Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell said: "It wasn't an easy painting, but they knocked it out of the

park. The two ladies had never painted before and they did very well."

Bob Ross classes are held every month – contact 01706 833180 for more information or follow us on Facebook: Veterans In Communities.

VIC social outings



A TRIP out to Billy Bob's Parlour near Bolton Abbey, North Yorkshire, was enjoyed by 12 VIC members.

Volunteer driver was Phil Chamberlain and the new minibus was packed.

In June and July we have trips planned for the Runway Visitor Park, Mersey River Cruise and the Emsay Steam Railway.

Please, if you have booked on to any of these future trips, can you call the VIC Centre on 01706 833180 as soon as possible to confirm attendance and payment details.

Yellow poppies

HUNDREDS of stunning yellow poppies, many made by our own Crafty Chatters, Beacon Dementia and Knits at Fitz are now on display in France to

acknowledge the D-Day Heroes from the 101st Screaming Eagles.





ROSSENDALE

Activities 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

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 Groups/ Social Inclusion trips

see Facebook or website for details

BURNLEY AND PENDLE

Outreach Service

MONDAY

10am-noon

Breakfast Club at Burnley Miners' Social Club, Plumbe Street, Burnley, BB11 3AA.

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

HEYWOOD, MIDDLETON AND ROCHDALE

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 Flying Horse Hotel, Packer Street, Rochdale, OL16 1NJ.

RIBBLE VALLEY & PRESTON

TUESDAYS

Redoubt Coffee Morning and Outreach

10am-noon

Trinity Methodist Church, Wesleyan Row,

Parson Lane, Clitheroe, BB7 2JY.

Sandbag Cafe

10am-12.30pm

St George's Church, off Lune Street, Preston PR1 2NP. This is a joint session with Lancashire Armed Forces Association.

VIC – 01706 833180

Chief Executive Amanda Walton

amandawalton@vic.org.uk

Operations Manager Bob Elliott

bobelliott@vic.org.uk 07961 554 006

Administrator Amy Thompson

amythompson@vic.org.uk

Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth

stevebutterworth@vic.org.uk

Project Worker Ray Sharkey

raysharkey@vic.org.uk 07741 902 188

Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren

Horsnell

darrenhorsnell@vic.org.uk

VIC Choir Bookings Barry Hyde

barryhyde@vic.org.uk

Veterans at risk of homelessness

or organisations working with them are encouraged to contact OP FORTITUDE

0800 952 0774 or visit riv.org.uk/opfortitude

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@ssafa.org.uk

01772 260 462

Citizens Advice East Lancashire

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

The Samaritans

01282 694929 Mon to Fri 9am-9pm

Freephone 116 123

Op Courage

0300 373 3332 email

opcourageNORTH@cntw.nhs.uk

Veterans UK Free Helpline

0808 1914 218

East Lancashire Single Point of Access via

GP or self-referral

0800 0130 707

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

Veterans' football

MONDAY 8-9pm

Blackburn Rovers Indoor Centre, Ewood Park, Blackburn BB2 4JF. A cost applies.

Outreach Service

TUESDAY 10am-noon

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

Contact Chris McGrail 07787 585109

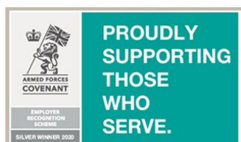
Veterans In Communities
Charity Number 1151194

Want to help?

To support VIC
scan this QR code



VIC supported by:



www.facebook.com
VIC Veterans In Communities