



Armed Forces Week Launch of Sandbag café

A SPLENDID turnout marked the opening of the new Sandbag Café in Preston, the first collaboration between VIC and Lancashire Armed Forces Association.

The opening was held during Armed Forces Week, and Colonel (Retd) David Waters, Chairman of the Lancashire AFA, welcomed everyone who attended, including the Mayor of Preston Councillor Philip Crowe, to the official opening of the cafe inside St George's Church, Preston.

VIC Chief Executive Amanda Walton said: "There were lots of people in attendance and we also met the new Armed Forces Champion of Preston City Council



Councillor Mel Close. Everybody had a great time and said how good it is for VIC to be working in collaboration for the good of veterans in the Preston area.

"Our Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth is providing welfare support for the new café."

The Forces Employment Charity, which provides life-long, life-changing support and training opportunities to service leavers,

reservists and their families, also attended.

The new Sandbag Café Preston is open to all members past and present of the Armed Forces community and the invitation extends to members of other veteran groups and local community organisations that are working with veterans in the Preston area.

For more information contact VIC on 01706 833180 or through the Sandbag Cafe Preston or Lancashire Armed Forces Association Facebook groups.



Flying the flag

VIC members were in attendance at flag raising services to mark Armed Forces Week across our areas of benefit.

We were in Rochdale, Clitheroe, Rawtenstall and at the service in Preston at Lancashire County Council when our Administrator Amy Thompson, who is also County Standard Bearer for The Royal British Legion, carried the County Standard.

Chief Executive Amanda Walton said: "At County Hall there were representatives from all different veteran organisations along with Councillors and Second World War D-Day Veterans who had been on the beaches of Normandy for the 80th commemorations.

"Colonel (Retd) David Waters gave an overview of the events in Normandy and two of the veterans who had also been in Normandy, Richard Brock and Ken Benbow, spoke."





D-Day dioramas

by Kayden Garrity

SPECIALLY crafted dioramas depicting D-Day events have been expertly created by VIC members and placed on display in Preston.

From June 6-9, five dioramas showcasing events which took place leading up to and on D-Day were placed on display in Fulwood Barracks, Preston, as part of the commemorations for the 80th anniversary of the Normandy landings.

Alongside the dioramas created by the VIC Model Railway Club, based at VIC's Accrington Arndale drop-in, other displays, created by groups across Lancashire, were shown in the exhibition.

The VIC models had previously been on show at the drop-in during Accrington's Food Festival.

They were created over five months and all referenced famous events or scenes from the Second World War and D-Day.

One of the dioramas depict-



ed a Cromwell tank facing off against the German Panzer outside of a cobbled house while others showed the construction and development of Bailey Bridges along with their usage in wartime.

Another showcased the capture of Pegasus Bridge and the feats of aviation by the glider pilot who landed there.

Two more show the Avro tank, in one instance being used as cover by a Casualty Aid Unit while another showed it being used as a stable support for a bridge to allow other tanks to cross a deep bomb crater.

At the Food Festival a Second World War re-enactment was also staged.

An authentic Willys Jeep also made an appearance

adjacent to the shop, bringing sturdy competition to the soapbox Willys Jeep on display in the store.

Union flags covered the walls as 1940s music played recreating an atmosphere of, and paying homage to, the times of Second World War.

Project Worker Ray Sharkey said: "It was about opening ourselves up to a wider base and bringing attention to what we do here at the shop. We want to show veterans the safe space our shop provides, to have a brew and a talk.

"We wanted to pay homage to the 1940s and commemorate the D-Day Landings and show that, both in the war and in the creation of the dioramas, everybody works together like a well-oiled machine."



Pin badges

A FEW special D-Day 80 badges are available at the VIC Centre for a suggested donation of £3.50



donation to The Royal British Legion. These were given to VIC by Mandy Brennan.

Home front

A D-DAY remembrance event was held at Haslingden's The Lindens Rest Home when flags were displayed and special D-Day cakes were enjoyed.



Steve Butterworth
Veteran, Falklands War
BBC NORTH WEST TODAY

Thanking the heroes

A SPECIAL service was held to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day at Rochdale Cenotaph.

Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth was interviewed by BBC Northwest Today about why it was so important that the day was marked.

He said: "If we don't remember them, and pass

it onto the future generations, they will get lost into the remnants of time, so the kids of today need to know.

"They need to remember, and they need to know, that what they have got today they wouldn't have if it hadn't have been for those guys who landed on the Normandy beaches 80 years ago."

French visit

VIC is making its own visit to the D-Day beaches and War Cemeteries in France in September.

A full minibus will leave from the VIC Centre for the four-day visit and all attendees are paying for their own place on the trip.

A second trip is already being planned for next year.



Business tips for success

VIC is one of 24 charities to be selected for a prestigious business support package.

Weston Charity Awards, a national charity, received 180 applications for this year's awards and Veterans In Communities was among the top 13 per cent of submissions.

VIC Chairman Ronnie Barker and Chief Executive Amanda Walton were invited to a prestigious launch at the Thinktank Birmingham Science Museum.

Amanda said: "We got the chance to meet the other winners and found that we are the only charity selected that



supports veterans. "Over the next 10 months we will be linked with a business - Pilotlight - and as a direct result of the programme, I hope VIC can create and develop new strategies providing us with sustainable core capacity to provide secure and ongoing support to vulnerable veterans and their

families. "Ultimately, I would like to see it creating change for VIC, and this will in turn, generate success by treating the cause and not the effect."

In congratulating VIC, Deputy Chair of Trustees at Garfield Weston Foundation Sophia Weston said: "In today's world, the challenges facing

communities are more complex than ever. We're proud to partner with Pilotlight to support the 24 outstanding charities, who are finding innovative ways to combat issues ranging from rising inequality to threats to our natural environment."

Chief Executive of Pilotlight Ed Mayo said: "The Weston Charity Awards provide a lifeline to smaller charities on the frontlines of changing social and environmental needs.

"Pilotlight is excited to offer our expertise in helping these charities develop strategic plans for the future, ensuring they can maximise their impact and navigate uncertainty."

Gone fishing

CARP fishers enjoyed another two-day competition at Sandhurst Lake, Surrey, while also raising money for VIC.

Mark Bilsborough, who runs a small business called Carpin Cutz, kindly donated a lead pouch and distance stock cord for every angler attending the VIC Carp Social fishing event.

He also donating a £50 and £25 voucher to raffle off along with eight other customised items.

Mark has served for QLR and The Duke of Lancashire Regt over 24 years so a charity like VIC is very close to home.

Paint trip

VIC artists are looking forward to an open air painting session at Hollingworth Lane, Littleborough, on Friday August 9.

There is a café and it's dog friendly. Walkers can also enjoy a wander round the lake.

The trip, in the VIC minibus, is free and will leave the VIC Centre at 10.30am and should be back around 3pm.

Please contact 01706 833180 to book a place.

Stall help

TESCO in Haslingden is holding a Communities' Day on Saturday July 27 and VIC will be having a stall.

VIC will also be holding a stall at this year's Trawden Show on Sunday August 11 and we are looking for volunteers to help man the stall, call 01706 833180.

VIC merch

WE HAVE some great new merchandise emblazoned with the VIC logo and we will be developing new products thanks to a link with the Veterans Support Centre, Warrington.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "We will be being loaned a laser printer from Warrington, which will enable us to widen what we offer, and we have had help from Arnie at Warrington who is working with our sublimation team – Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell and Paul, AKA Willie, Wilcock.

"We are looking at making bespoke leather badges and engraving designs on wood, slate and Perspex. These will be in addition to the sublimation work."



Singing to raise awareness

OUR choir has had a busy month singing at Asda in Rawtenstall and representing VIC at a special Communities' Day at Tesco in Burnley.

VIC Chief Executive Amanda

Walton said: "When the choir go out, it is a great opportunity to raise awareness of what VIC does and to bring entertainment to those listening and shopping.

"In Burnley, there were lots of other groups represented and we even had

people dancing to the choir.

"We are also grateful for all donations that are received."

At Rawtenstall Asda £275.06 was received and in Burnley £161.68 was raised. Thanks to Jacko Pearce for collecting.

Chance to join our art group

SPACES are available on our art group which is held every week at Jubilee Court, Jubilee Road, Helmshore.

Anyone wanting more information should call in to the VIC Centre in Haslingden or phone 01706 833180.

The VIC Art Group is also



held every Tuesday and Friday at the VIC centre.



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

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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

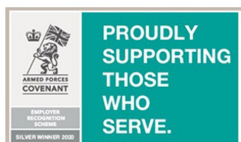
Veterans In Communities
Charity Number 1151194

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