



VIC Newsletter



Boxing clever

A SPECTACULAR time was had by the VIC Soapbox team at Amazing Accrington's Soapbox Challenge and Willys Jeep only missed out on a place in the final by less than a second.

Hyndburn and Ribble Valley Project Worker Ray Sharkey said: "It was a fantastic day and everyone who came along had a brilliant time."

The VIC gazebo was set up in the pit lane and there was a terrific turnout from VIC Hyndburn ready to cheer driver Bob Brindley as he tackled the course.

Willys Jeep, complete with green smoke, made great time down the track and round the 90-degree

corner to the finish.

Ray said: "Since we last took part in 2022, we have made a few alterations which have speeded the kart up.

"We are now going to look at refurbishing the wheels and the bearings to make the kart go even faster next time."

Many local Hyndburn businesses created karts for the race and a qualifying heat was held with the fastest 10 karts through to a final in the afternoon.

BBC Radio Lancashire presenter Graham Liver and co-presenter Parin Begum also took part, in karts created by North Lancs Training Group.

Graham's kart resembled a Back to the Future-style DeLorean



car outside, but the wrap covered a basic no frills go-kart which had to be pushed over the ramps and came last.

While daredevil Parin managed to complete the course, including humps, on just three wheels after one fell off at the start.

The eventual winner was The Senator Group who finished in a blistering 17.839 seconds.

Bob said: "Oh well, back to the drawing board. Maybe next year."



Ready to remember

VIC has created a range of decorative Remembrance bottles, illuminated with battery operated lights to complement the Lest We Forget items we sell.

The range includes

men's wallets, coaster, place mats, mouse mats and mugs and all can be personalised.

Contact Volunteer Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell on 01706 833180 for more details.





Hearing help

A LOCAL hearing specialist is offering veterans excellent prices for ear cleaning and a discount on hearing aids.

Fresh Hearing has branches in Haslingden and Bolton and is offering to cleanse ears for £30, half price, and 10 per cent off hearing aids.

Some members of VIC have already used the company and are very happy with the service.

Rock night

OUR good friends the Throttle Twisters Motor Cycle Club will be holding a fantastic fundraising rock night for VIC at North Chadderton Social and Bowling Club, Broadway, Chatterton.

Entertainment and fundraising activities will be on from 7.30pm to midnight on Friday October 18.

Harvest time

THANKS to our allotment volunteer Jack, we have already benefited from the first crops this year from the Helmshore site.

Jack dropped off some peapods, which had been grown on the allotment, and beetroot and cabbage are next on the list for harvesting.

Marshal

VIC is helping out Rossendale Rotary Club by providing marshals for the popular Round the Hills walk on Sunday September 1. It will be the 57th time the 18-mile event has been held.



Writing on the walls

SINCE VIC opened up in Bury Road, Haslingden, in 2013 there has always been a lack of prominent signage outside the premises, but not anymore.

We now have fantastic signs on the front of the former pub and another on the side where the car park is. Thank you to our veteran volunteers for affixing them.



Bob Ross class

STUNNING artwork was created at the July painting in the style of Bob Ross class.

The next class will be on Saturday September 28 meeting at the VIC Centre at 10.30am.

The cost is £45 and all materials and refreshments are provided – bring a packed lunch.

Volunteer Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell has been running the classes since 2015, when VIC had an arts and crafts shop in Rawtenstall, and they have helped scores of people to create stunning paintings, and develop a love for painting.

If you would like to join, or want more information, please contact Darren on 01706 833180.

Battlefields tour 2024

PLANS have been finalised for the VIC Battlefields Tour which will take place from September 9 to 13.

The minibus will take 11 members of VIC and head over to Northern France where they will step onto the beaches, just as the veterans who fought for our freedom did 80 years ago on D-Day.

The party includes: Operations Manager Bob Elliott and Project Worker Ray Sharkey, along with Bob Brindley, Phil Speddy, Graham Limb, Aaron Lorimar, Sam and Paul (Willie) Wilcock, Ron Flowers, Mark



King and Volunteer Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell.

The veterans will pay their respects at war cemeteries, visit The Somme and attend the poignant Menin Gate service where the VIC Standard will be displayed as The Last Post is sounded.



Motor day

A MOTOR sports day to the Three Sisters track in Wigan is being planned.

The trip will be open to all members, especially those from all our outreach centres, Clitheroe, Burnley, Heywood, Rochdale, Middleton, Preston, Pendle and Bury.

Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth said: "We can either go for a classic car day, where you are driven around the track in a Ferrari, Aston Martin etc, or a karting day."

Anyone interested is asked to email Steve's on stevebutterworth@vic.org.uk

Bowling

OUR friends in Burnley have introduced free Military Veterans Bowls every Thursday morning at Queens Park.

Burnley Football in the Community veterans' project is organising the activity which is ideal for military veterans looking for some light exercise, camaraderie or just a brew and company.

For more information contact Veterans' Project Officer John Pluckwell on j.pluckwell@burnleyfc.com or call 07714792392.



Steam, fish and chips

A PACKED minibus and additional car took veterans on an outing to the Emsay and Bolton Abbey Steam Railway.

Not only did they enjoy a trip on the train through beautiful North Yorkshire

countryside, they also tucked into a very generous portion of fish and chips and had a tour of the railway sheds.

Laura Saxton said: "I thoroughly enjoyed it all. Thanks to Pat McEvoy for arranging it and Ray Sharkey for chauffeuring."



While Sheila Dunn said they enjoyed a fantastic day out with 'very tasty fish and chips on the train and not forgetting the large glass of Prosecco'.

Model club scales up huge plans

MILITARY modelling is the latest plan for members of the Model Railway Club based at the VIC Accrington Drop-in.

The first project to be tackled is to create the Battle of the Denmark Straight which involved HMS Hood, HMS Prince of Wales, and the German battleship Bismarck.

At the start of the battle, the Hood had a crew of more than 1,400 men and, within the blink of an eye, 1,415 were gone leaving just three survivors.

It will be a long-term project as just to build the Bismarck could take a year.

The club will be also be seeking sponsorship to support the project.



MEMBERS of VIC once again supported Trawden Agricultural Show by having a stand.

Trawden Show

As well as selling items made at the VIC Centre, members of VIC were on hand to discuss the work of the charity with the many people who attend the traditional rural show.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "It was a really good day again and we will be back again next year."



Volunteer Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell held an annual fundraising craft stall at Kemple View in Langho.





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

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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Project Worker Ray Sharkey

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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

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.

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

Stanley Sports Hub, Thorneyholme Road, Accrington, BB5 6BD.

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.

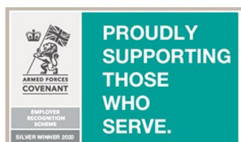
Contact Chris McGrail 07787 585109

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