



# VIC Newsletter



## VJ-80 Commemorations

**ALTHOUGH Victory in Europe was celebrated in May, it was not until August 15 that Japan finally surrendered to the Allied Forces and the Second World War was over.**

Members and personnel from Veterans In Communities were present at a number of events across our area of benefit to mark VJ-80 Day.

Chief Executive Amanda Walton and trustee Bob Elliott were invited to a poignant Service of Remembrance at Lancaster Castle attended by dignitaries from all over Lancashire.

Administrator Amy Thompson was also in attendance in her official capacity as The Royal British

Legion Standard Bearer for Lancashire and veteran Jacko Pearce paraded the VIC Standard.

Many VIC members, including Project Worker Ray Sharkey and Ron Flowers, were in attendance at the VJ-80 Anniversary Service in Accrington held at Broadway and the Accrington Pals Memorial.

In Clitheroe, the Mayor of Ribble Valley Councillor Simon O'Rourke paid tribute to those who served in the Far East campaign and a two-minutes' silence was observed; VIC members John and Geoff attended.

Clitheroe Castle was also illuminated in white as part of the commemorations.



In Blackburn, The Royal British Legion organised a family and community celebration day at East Lancs Cricket Ground.

VIC Trustee, and Royal British Legion Helmshore Branch representative, Alan Woods organised a VJ-80 service at the Memorial Gardens

in Helmshore attended by Chief Executive Amanda.

In Preston, the Mayor, Armed Forces Champion Councillor Mel Close, along with the Lancashire Armed Forces Association, organised a commemorative service.

## VIC AGM

**VIC will be holding its 12th Annual General Meeting at the VIC Centre on Wednesday September 17.**

Doors will be open at 7pm, and the meeting will begin at 7.30pm; attendees are welcome in person or via Zoom link. Please notify Administrator Amy Thompson if attending so sufficient papers can be provided and log-in details if necessary, 01706 833180.

Chief Executive Amanda Walton said: "We will be presenting an overview of the work that has been carried out at VIC and this is your chance, as members, to have your say about what you would like to see happening at VIC over the next 12 months."

## Battlefields

**FOUR key members of VIC, along with seven others will be embarking on a tour of Battlefields and Memorials in France and Belgium from August 31 to September 5.**

## Go-kart challenge

**MEMBERS of VIC had a fun day out taking part in the Amazing Accrington Soap Box Challenge.**

Veteran Bob Brindley, our intrepid

go-kart racer, was again driving Willys Jeep, accompanied by his first-class back-up team.

The event was fun and eventful. With two jumps on the

downhill course, some go-karts didn't make it to the bottom without losing wheels.

Bob said: "When you look down the course, you just have to think, 'Get on with it'."

"Twice, while I was going down the course, my helmet went over my eyes

and I couldn't see so I had to adjust it.

"It still was good fun, we all had a good laugh and it shows we don't take life too seriously."

VIC members were on hand to chat with

people who were admiring the Willys Jeep go-kart.

Project Worker Ray Sharkey said: "It has been great for team building and excellent fun to take part in."





# Bug hotel for museum



**A BEAUTIFUL bug hotel has been created for The Friends of Helmshore Textile Museum in addition to planters VIC has already created for the site.**

Veteran Willie worked his magic on the design and Darren added a special touch with his laser-engraved signage. Phil, Willie, and Glynn had the pleasure of delivering it in person.

Operations Manager Phil Speddy said: "Not only does the bug hotel look amazing, while there we were also given another private order from someone who had seen the



work we had done."  
The Bug Hotel has now

been added to the museum's wildlife garden project.

● **Contact VIC Administrator Amy Thompson on 01706 833180 for bespoke wooden projects.**

## Fast lane fun

**FOLLOWING on from our amazing Veteran Karting Day at 3 Sisters Circuit in Wigan, we will be back again on September 17.**

Mission Motorsport, the charity that arranges the activities, has had a break in August, but we are looking forward to the next challenge.

Operations Manager Phil Speddy said: "A huge thank you to both organisations for everything they've offered to VIC's veteran members and their families over the past few months.

"These events are more than just fun, they truly bring people together and get the blood pumping."

Anyone who wants to get involved should contact Administrator Amy Thompson and book a place on the VIC minibus.

## Holiday offer

**A GENEROUS offer has been made for veterans to be able to enjoy a free break in glamping pods at Altcar Training Camp, Liverpool.**

The pods are designed to give veterans the chance to get together, share experiences, and support each other. Email Carl. Gardner452@mod.gov.uk



***Our annual craft stall at Kemple View, Blackburn, was a huge success and raised £107 for VIC.***

***We would like to thank Adrian, from Kemple View, for inviting VIC again to the annual event where we sold sublimation and laser cut products. We enjoyed the food and the chance to meet great people again; we will be back again at Christmas.***

## Fantastic time at Trawden

**THIS year we branched out at Trawden Agricultural Show, as well as selling craft items we also served cuppas.**

Operations Manager Phil Speddy said: "We were kindly loaned a trailer that we were able to use to make tea and coffee to sell and we also had the VIC Minibus and a stall.

"It was a very busy show and there was a good 20 to 30 stands more than usual. We made some great contacts, lots of forces people and Army Cadet Force members; it was a good day out.

"We also met Trawden Men's Shed and they were interested in coming to see what we do here at the VIC Centre."

## Chaplaincy link

**A COLLABORATION between VIC and Anna Chaplaincy means veterans needing support can now access extra help.**

Anna Chaplaincy is a national charity that has a Rossendale representative Tricia Calway.

Operations Manager Phil Speddy said: "Tricia came into the VIC Centre just for a chat and over three or four months we formulated the idea of how we could work together.

"It is two-way. If Tricia comes across a veteran in her line of work, then, subject to their agreement, she can refer them to us and vice versa. We can offer to refer to Anna Chaplaincy, if a veteran would like some spiritual support and someone to chat to."

Anyone who is coping with illness, loss, grief, aging or end of life and would like a confidential listening ear, gentle spiritual support and help to find peace, purpose and hope can contact Tricia on 07949 140 108 or email [tricia.calway@rossendalecofe.church](mailto:tricia.calway@rossendalecofe.church)





# Next stop, The Lowry

## VIC artists could land a prestigious exhibition at Salford's The Lowry.

For several years, VIC has had links with Sue Brodie who founded The STARTS Award.

This is a creative skills development programme for the armed forces community.

Last year, art by Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell won a STARTS competition when artwork is assessed by independent judges.

Darren said: "When I won, they asked me to be an art mentor and I said I would do it if they would invite VIC to join in with the Lowry exhibition."

Cass Art Space in Manchester is now displaying all the artwork submitted by five VIC artists for this year's competition. Outreach Worker

Steve Butterworth's work has been picked as the best.

Darren said the Cass initially feared the veterans' work could be dark, but, he said: "The paintings we submitted were really nice, full of colour and nothing was doom and gloom; hopefully we will be opening our own exhibition at The Lowry in the future."

Paintings currently on show are from Steve, Tracey Gilbertson, Liz Taylor, Graham Limb and Paul Hope.

Darren said: "What was great was seeing the faces of those whose work has now been framed and exhibited. Tracey and Paul aren't used to this and Paul was almost in tears and couldn't believe his work was good enough to be exhibited."



## Darts for VIC

### GENEROUS Rossendale-firm City Electrical Factors hosted a charity darts tournament to raise money for VIC.

Operations Manager Phil Speddy said: "We had the pleasure of visiting CEF – Rossendale, where we caught up with branch manager Steve King and his fantastic team.

"Last month, they hosted a charity darts tournament for their customers and, with support from CEF and generous prize donations from other local businesses, they raised an incredible £218.32 in support of VIC.

"A big thank you to everyone who took part and contributed. It's amazing to see local businesses coming together to make a difference."

## Help with bills

**HELP is available to assist veterans to cover the cost of essentials – food, fuel and energy bills.**

The Household Support Fund can offer assistance and any veteran who needs help to apply for funding can contact Project Worker Ray Sharkey or another member of the Veterans In Communities Outreach team.

VIC is an accredited referral agency for both Rossendale and Hyndburn districts.



## Fabulous total for bike riders

**THE final total for money raised by the Forces and Families Bike Ride was an amazing £1,879.20.**

For a week in July, Veteran Bob Brindley and VIC Operations Manager Phil Speddy completed a 264-mile marathon cycle ride from London to Haslingden, mostly via canal and river

paths.

They were raising money for VIC, Scotty's Little Soldiers and the Friends of Lancashire Army Cadet Force.

They were both very grateful for the support they received from Bob Elliott and Bill Ogden, the back-up crew, and everyone who sponsored their journey.

## Cadet camp

**VIC is a Silver Award holder of the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Scheme, which enabled Operations Manager Phil Speddy to have paid leave, as an adult volunteer, to attend an army cadet camp.**

He said: "The Army Cadet Force had a camp at Barry Buddon, just out of Dundee in Scotland.

"I spent a week there with 300 young people and got them through their Star Levels which can lead to promotion. It was a great week away with three nights spent in a field."

## Marshal

**MEMBERS of VIC are again asked to help Rossendale Rotary Club to marshal the annual Round The Hills Walk on Sunday September 7.**

The 18-mile walk leaves Marl Pits, Rawtenstall, and anyone who can help to organise events at the start should attend the venue on Newchurch Road at 7am.

It is the 58th year the event has been held.

## Collectors

**OUR Choir has plans to sing at two Tesco stores in October and anyone who can spare a couple of hours is asked to help to collect.**

On Saturday October 4, they will be singing at Tesco Burnley from 1pm and on Saturday October 18, the Choir will be at Tesco Haslingden at 1pm.

If you can help, please contact Administrator Amy Thompson on 01706 833180.



## 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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Project Worker Ray Sharkey

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Community Capacity Builder Brian Hawke

brianhawke@vic.org.uk 07741 902 343

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

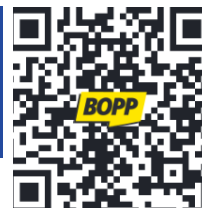
### Armed Forces Support Group

01282 613132

**Veterans In Communities**  
**Charity Number 1151194**

**Want to help?**

To support VIC  
scan this QR code



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by:



Lancashire and  
South Cumbria  
Integrated Care Board



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WHO  
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