

The fallen are remembered

REMEMBRANCE Rolls of Honour are under long-term loan to VIC and are now on display in the Conference Room.

The four plaques, from three churches and a Liberal Club, had all been donated to The Whitaker Art Gallery and Museum, in Rawtenstall, and, although some had been displayed, there was not capacity for them to be on show all year round.

VIC Operations Manager Phil Speddy used to work for a charity based in the park and so knew of the boards' existence and was able to work with The Whitaker's Collections Curator

Gina Warbuton to secure their future.

King's Trust volunteers revamped the Conference Room at the VIC Centre, in Haslingden, earlier this year as part of their voluntary placement and now, the boards take pride of place.

Three Rolls of Honour list names of the fallen from the First World War and one also includes names of those who did not return from the Second World War.

The charity was also loaned two Standards, which had been donated to The Whitaker, and these are now on display

alongside the charity's own Standard.

At VIC's Annual General Meeting, Tricia Calway from Anna Chaplaincy, which is working in partnership with VIC to offer spiritual care for Rossendale people in later life, blessed the Remembrance Rolls of Honour.

She dedicated prayers to the closed churches, where some of the boards came from, to the veterans and to those who gave their lives and are remembered on the plaques.

Gina Warbuton



was also at the meeting and said: "It is really great that you have been able to display all these plaques. It is brilliant that they are now here for everyone to see.

"I think this venue is right for them and not only will they be really cared for and appreciated, but they will get the respect that they deserve."

Some research has already been carried out by The Whitaker into three of

the names on each of the plaques and their stories, and photos where possible, are included on information boards alongside the Rolls of Honour.

Veteran Ron Flowers, who volunteers with VIC, will be researching other soldiers who are also named and remembered.

Anyone who wants to view them can call into the centre at 12 Bury Road, Haslingden.

Lest we forget items

A RANGE of Remembrance items have been manufactured by the Creative Hub at VIC.

These include plaques, tea light holders, decorative window items and more.

There is also a free-standing plaque with the 'For The Fallen' poem in honour of all those who gave their lives for their country during war times.

These are approx 12 inches tall by 8 inches wide made from plywood and cost £20 each.

The Creative Hub has a range of different items available, including special seasonal ones.

For more information please call Administrator Amy Thompson on 01706 833180.



Appeal for volunteers

AN AMAZING opportunity to raise awareness of the work of VIC and sell artwork to shoppers in Bury has been offered by the Mill Gate Shopping Centre.

We will be looking to open three days a week over 13 weeks starting in November and continuing to January.

In 2015 and 2016, we held an art exhibition in the Mill Gate Centre in Bury, each for a 10-day period and we welcomed 3,000

members of the public to view and buy Veterans' art.

This time, we have the opportunity to run a pop-up shop for 13 weeks and will be open on Market Days on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

In order to make the shop successful, we need help to man the premises. Anyone who wants to volunteer to help can contact Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth on 01706 833180.



VIC work stuns Mayors

STUNNED Mayors expressed their admiration for the level of work, support and assistance given to veterans by VIC.

There was standing room only in the conference room for VIC's Annual General Meeting.

Chairman of trustees Ronnie Barker delivered the official report including detailed financial statements; he noted that the organisation had now spent the funds that had been built up to purchase a new mini bus.

Then the scale of work undertaken by the charity between April 2024 and April 2025 was outlined by Chief Executive Amanda Walton.

She summarised how they had identified and provided support to 100 new members, in addition to those currently known, held more

than 300 outreach sessions with more than 200 people each week accessing social groups or VIC services.

The charity referred members to other military charities and organisations when appropriate and helped with Department of Work and Pensions appeals and assistance to get military pensions.

Amanda said: "We held support visits and trips throughout the year and at Christmas made and delivered more than 65 festive hampers to members on a low income or in need of support."

The charity helped veterans with accommodation and sourced furniture for their new property.

Working with Colonel (retired) David Waters, VIC helped to launch the Sandbag Café in St George's Church in Preston which now regularly gets 30 attendees

every week.

He told the meeting how he asked VIC for help when the Wings Centre drop-in in Preston closed and that led to the Sandbag opening.

He said: "I would like to say a big thank you to VIC on behalf of all veterans around Lancashire who have benefited."

The Mayor of Burnley Councillor Paul Reynolds thanked VIC for the help the charity provided to veterans while Mayor of Rossendale Councillor Michelle Smith said: "Wow. I didn't know how much you did. It is amazing and you should be so proud of what you are doing for so many people. This has been an education for me, I didn't know how far you went."

VIC also gave advice when Bay Veterans' Association were looking to set up a hub and the

organisation's founder Gary Kniveton, who is now Lancashire County Council's Armed Forces Champion, was in attendance at the AGM.

When members of the Creative Hub expressed the need for an additional second-hand laser machine to help with orders, Gary offered to fund it from his LCC budget.

Amanda said the charity had received £61,000 in grants, £10,000 from trading income, the VIC choir had raised £2,600 and £23,000 had been received from donations, legacies and fundraising.

"We have volunteers who put in 8,700 hours each year to help VIC," she said. "At minimum wage, that would cost VIC £106,227. We are very grateful for their support and we couldn't do what we do without them."

Card appeal

YOUR artwork, photograph or crafty creation could be used for our new set of VIC Christmas Cards.

It may seem early, but in order to make sure the cards are ready in time for Christmas, we need to have your entry by October 10.

Six designs will be selected for the cards and inside each card will be small Christmas message.

Designs can be any in medium. Please send completed works to darrenhorsnell@vic.org.uk

Bug hotel

AFTER seeing a social media posting about the latest Bug Hotel created by Veterans In Production for Helmshore Textile Museum, a private order was received.

Willy was straight on with the order and the large triangular shaped bug hotel has been delivered to Bury.

Holiday

HOLIDAYS for Heroes Jersey is offering five-day holidays for 2026.

To be eligible for a holiday, veterans must have suffered an injury in mind or body as a result of their military service.

All applications must be made online. Check the website for full details, visit www.holsforheroesjersey.com

Free lunch

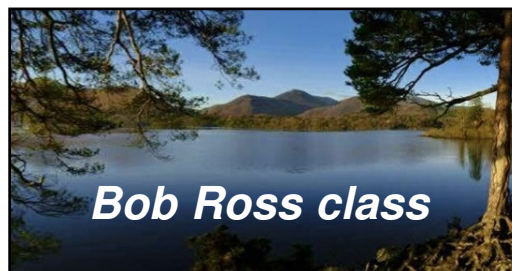
GENEROUS Jax bar in Church Street, Accrington, is offering a free lunch to veterans on last Saturday of every month at noon.

Battlefields tour

IN SEPTEMBER, 11 members of VIC went on an emotional tour of First and Second World War Battlefields in France and Belgium.

A six-page newsletter special was produced earlier this month.

For a copy, call in to VIC or email Administrator Amy Thompson at amythompson@vic.com



Bob Ross class

THIS stunning lakeside scene will be the feature of our next painting in the style of Bob Ross class on Sunday October 5 from 10.30am to about 3.30pm.

Refreshments are provided, but attendees should bring their own lunch. The class costs £45 with all materials provided.

Places need to be pre-booked and a non-refundable deposit of £15 needs to be paid to VIC Administrator Amy Thompson by calling 01706 833180 or calling in at the centre in Haslingden.



Golden celebration at home

Bay Vets

OUR links with Bay Veterans' Association, based in Morecambe, have been further strengthened.

We have visited the association before, and when they were looking to set up their own hub in Morecambe, our then Operations Manager Bob Elliott, now a VIC trustee, and Chief Executive Amanda Walton visited to share best practice.

Operations Manager Phil Speddy said: "We met up with Business Manager and Executive Director Wendy Tose at the Pier Hotel at the breakfast morning and then we went on to see their hub which is based at the Arndale."

Football

VETERANS who love the beautiful game are invited to take up the chance to join Walking Talking Football.

The free sessions, on a Tuesday afternoon from 2pm to 4pm are held at Bacup Borough Football Club, Cowtoot Lane, Bacup, and start with a professional warm up, walking game then post-match brew, chat and signposting.

IT WAS an honour for VIC to be present at the 50th anniversary celebration of Harvey Longworth Court in Crawshawbooth.

Originally built by The Royal British Legion for veterans and their families, the house was named after the Rossendale RBL Chairman Harvey Longworth.

At the anniversary celebrations, Hazel Harding from the Court's Social Club presented

VIC Operations Manager Phil Speddy with a cheque for £200.

The Social Club hosts events throughout the year, and this donation is their way of giving back to the community.

It was especially moving to see three of



Harvey's grandchildren and two great-grandchildren in attendance,

along with Rossendale Mayor Councillor Michelle Smith. One of Harvey's great-granddaughters also created a beautiful historical display for the event.

Pupils select VIC as their charity

CHILDREN from Yellow House at Broadway Primary School in Haslingden will be raising money and helping to raise awareness for VIC over the next year.

The houses in Broadway have each selected a good local cause, and Yellow House picked VIC.

Operations Manager Phil Speddy said: "The team attended in military uniform and smart dress to highlight pride in appearance and offer the children an insight into military and veteran life."

During an assembly, the members gave a talk about veterans and explained what VIC does to help people and gave the children a



glimpse into military life.

Phil said: "We are going to get involved by providing items for sale on stalls when they have events and we are also looking into bringing a small number of pupils for a trip to the VIC Centre to see what we do."

A huge thank you to Broadway Primary School for their support, VIC is delighted to be involved with the young people in our local community.

Housing help

VIC will be working with the owners of new residential accommodation based at the former Commercial Hotel in Haslingden.

The Revive Hub CIC, as the building is now known, is providing specialised supported housing.

VIC Operations Manager Phil Speddy said: "If someone is looking for a place, and it is possible to get them into The Revive, then we can offer it to them, subject to approval



from the local authority."

As a thank you and a token of our support, Volunteer Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell presented Manager of Revive Hub Scott Parker with donated artwork from VIC to help decorate the premises.

Ian Weller



IT WAS with much sadness that we learnt of the passing of VIC member and RAF Veteran Ian Weller on August 28.

Ian was a regular at the Thursday afternoon Greggs quiz at the VIC Centre in Haslingden and he also joined some of our social inclusion trips.

He was also a member of the VIC Model Railway Club in Accrington and his railway collection has kindly been donated to VIC.

Our thoughts and condolences are with his family and friends.

What's On and Where



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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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

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