

VIC Newsletter

Join our walkers and Remember together

VETERANS are embarking on a 50-mile Walk of Remembrance across Rossendale and are appealing for people to join them.

Last year intrepid Pioneer Corps veteran Phil Speddy and Royal Signals veteran Bob Brindley, completed a week-long walk when they visited more than 60 memorials, playing the Last Post and observing a silence at each.

This year, the walk will be from November 3 to 5 with a special visit to three Remembrance Sunday ceremonies on November 9.

They are also appealing for people to join them on sections of the walk, perhaps to a location that has special significance, or just to join in the act of Remembrance.

Chief Executive Amanda Walton joined Bob and Phil for a small section of the walk last year.

She said: "Last year I was not well, but I managed to do a part of the walk

with them, not as much as I had wanted to do, but all I could do.

"It is really important to show respect for the fallen of Rossendale.

"For me, taking part in the walk was very humbling, very emotional and I likened it to how we all felt from VIC when we visited France in September.

"It makes you stop, think and reflect and remember a different era, a different generation. These people fought for us and our future."

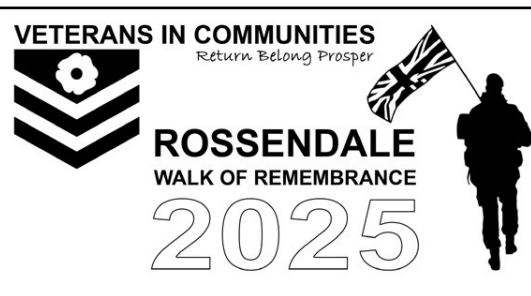
Bob and Phil, who is now the Operations Manager of VIC, also completed a 264-mile bike ride in the summer from London to Haslingden.

Bob added: "It is an honour to lead this year's walk, I know what this means to our veterans, and to Rossendale."

Phil said:

"This isn't just a walk – it is Remembrance in motion."

The walk will also be raising money to support the work of the charity and everyone



who joins is asked to donate or be sponsored.

For more information about joining the walk, whether for a day, an hour or at a particular Remembrance site – there are some 60 different locations all over Rossendale – contact VIC on 01706 833180.

To sponsor the walkers, visit:

<https://sponsorme.charitistrust.org/event/3c4f81e1-232d-44fb-a6cf-c6f286544fdb>

Win Remembrance blanket

MORE than 100 hours went into creating this beautiful Poppy crochet Remembrance blanket.

The final stitch was sewn as the creator sailed past the Normandy coastline and now the blanket is being raffled to

raise funds for VIC.

More than £250 has already been raised and tickets cost £2. The draw will close on Remembrance Day Tuesday November 11 at 11am when the winning number will be selected.

To enter visit:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/remembranceblanket>





Amy keeps Lancs title



OUR Administrator Amy Thompson is enjoying a double celebration this month.

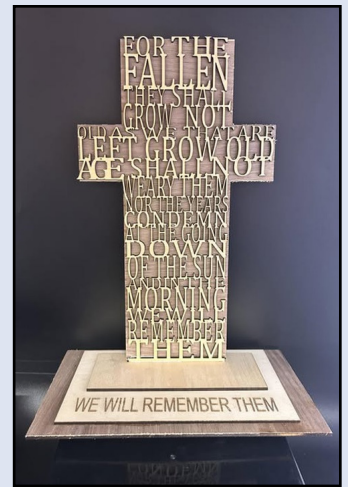
Firstly, she retained her title of The Royal British Legion County Standard Bearer for Lancashire. Last year she won by one point, but this year she was the clear victor by more than 20 points.

Then she passed her Royal British Legion

Parade Marshal course with flying colours.

Amy said: "As well as the Lancashire Training, I also join all the other regional RBL standard bearers who train in Staffordshire.

"I have completed more higher-level standard bearing jobs this year – you'll be amazed at what you can do when you stop doubting yourself and start stepping forward."



Remembrance

IN TIME for Remembrance, VIC has created a selection of memorial items.

All are hardy and made from 3mm or 5mm plywood in plain or a walnut colour.

All items can be posted with the assembly instructions included.

To find out about prices and availability please call Administrator Amy Thompson on 01706 833180.

Respects

ANY veterans in the vicinity of Burnley are invited to attend a special Remembrance Service at Rossendale House Care Home on November 11 at 11am – please arrive at 10.30am.

Military burial for Haslingden soldier – 118 years after he fell

A FIRST World War soldier, whose remains only were discovered while excavation works were being carried out for a new hospital in France, has been properly laid to rest.

Lance Corporal Fred Ramsbottom, who was born and raised in Haslingden, worked in local mills before joining the East Lancashire Regiment.

In April 1917, while he was serving with the 9th Battalion, The Suffolk Regiment, he fell at the Battle of Arras.

Although he was remembered on the Arras Memorial, his remains were seemingly lost forever.

However, de-mining works for a new hospital and Lens led to remains being discovered in 2020 and DNA tests confirmed his identity.

Fred was buried today in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Loos British Cemetery in the presence of his family.

The bearer party and the firing party were provided by 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment, and the service was led by Padre Joe Roberts.

Photos: Ministry of Defence



Lowry date for art

AS PART of Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth being selected as the winner of The Starts Award, as we reported in September, he got to show his work at The Lowry Hotel in Salford.

Many Forces people entered the competition, including some of our own art group whose work went on show in Manchester.



Choir call

THANK you to the suited and booted veterans who help with collections while the VIC Choir sing.

At Tesco in Burnley, collectors were represented by our Standard Bearer Jacko Pearce and army veteran Phil Chamberlain and a splendid £501.59 was raised.

The choir also completed a two-hour performance at Tesco Haslingden when £251.53 was donated – a big thank you to Jacko and Choir member Derek Whitehead for collecting.

The Choir has two bookings in November, but these are not for collectors – on November 5 at Jubilee Court and on



November 7 at Stacksteads Toll Bar for the Remembrance Service.

If you are able to help to collect, the Choir is busy in December – on

Saturday December 6 at Tesco Haslingden at 1pm, then **Saturday**

December 13 at Tesco Rawtenstall at 1pm and finally on **Sunday December 21** at Asda Rawtenstall.

If you are able to volunteer please contact Administrator Amy Thompson on 01706 833180.

VIC opens shop

REMEMBER, remember the 5th of November as that is the date we open our latest shop at the Mill Gate Centre in Bury.

VIC would like to say a huge thank you to the centre owners for inviting us back to have a 'pop-up' shop inside vacant premises.

We will be selling VIC artwork and merchandise and members will also be available to raise awareness of the work of the charity and to signpost veterans should they require assistance.

Chief Executive Amanda Walton said: "It is a really exciting opportunity for VIC and we will be open for 13 weeks this time on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays the same days that

the popular market is open.

"This time, our shop is opposite B&M and so is in a prime location next to one of the main entrances to the shopping centre from Bury Market.

"Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth is organising a rota of volunteers to man the shop in the old Bliss fashion store and if anyone wants to volunteer they should call him."

It is 10 years since VIC last held a shop at the centre and it was a huge success. This time the location and timing are perfect for both Remembrance items and the Christmas trade.

Contact Steve on 01706 833180 or email stevebutterworth@vic.org.uk

Bug hotels and libraries

HERE is the amazing bug hotel made by Willie from Veterans In Production which is now in pride of place in Bury.

To make it extra special, this version included a laser-engraved personal message and a cap badge as a salute to a family member who served with the Canal Zoners, 4th RT.

As a result of that commission, and one for Helmshore Textile Museum, we have been asked by Stonyhurst College, Clitheroe, to make a special rustic beehive book library for the Key Stage 2 pupils.



Bob Ross classes

NOVEMBER will have not one, but two painting in the style of Bob Ross classes.

Both will be led by Volunteer Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell and the first will be on Sunday November 2 from 10.30am to about 3pm when this waterfall painting will be created.

Then, on Sunday November 30, we will be

running another class to recreate this local image of Bacup's New Line Reservoir which was taken by our press officer Catherine Smyth.

The cost of the classes is £45, with a non-refundable deposit of £15, which includes all materials and refreshments; a packed lunch is recommended.

Here's the amazing artwork created by last month's class.

To secure your place please call Administrator Amy Thompson on 01706 833180.



A helping hand

Trips back

TRIPS are back on the agenda starting on **Wednesday November 5** when we will be visiting **Carnforth Station Heritage Centre**, where the iconic movie **Brief Encounter** was filmed.

The VIC Minibus will be leaving at 9.30am from the VIC Centre and the cost is £8 per person for the trip, lunch will be extra.

A further away day is planned for Wednesday December 10 leaving at 10.30am, this time to Barton Grange Garden Centre, Brock, Preston, to see the Christmas displays; £6 for the trip and there will be lots of options for lunch.

We are delighted to welcome back Pat McEvoy to VIC who has been a driving force behind trips from the centre for several years.

Operations Manager Phil Speddy said: "We are slowly reintroducing trips for VIC and anyone who has ideas of places they would like to visit should let us know."

To book your seat on the bus call into the VIC centre or contact Administrator Amy Thompson on 01706 833180.

WHEN veterans are in crisis, it is important VIC is able to respond quickly by bringing together different agencies to help the individual.

Recently we were made aware of a veteran who was homeless and a second who was in immediate risk of being made homeless.

Chief Executive Amanda Walton said: "Project Worker Ray Sharkey was made aware of the situation and did a lot of intensive work with the

veterans to rehome them.

"This was with Myshon Housing in Accrington and they both viewed flats on the same day with one moving in on the Friday and the other on the Monday.

"The support for them both is still ongoing and they have formed a friendship."

VIC does not work

in isolation and involves other agencies where appropriate to provide the best support to meet each veteran's individual need.

The charity has been donated food and toiletries to make up 12 packs for veterans in immediate need. VIC donated two to the veterans who needed a home, so they had food and essentials when they moved in.

Amanda said: "We are very grateful to the anonymous benefactor who donated these items to VIC. It will make a real difference to the lives of so many when they need the help most."

One of the veterans who was rehomed is becoming more active with VIC and attended a Mental Health First Aid Training course at the VIC Centre for staff, invited members and beneficiaries.

The course was delivered by Richard Hodgins of Manchester HQ CIC.



Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth was in attendance at the 85th anniversary of Battle of Britain celebrations held in Rochdale



Geared up to go

VETERANS revved up for a good time at the latest visit to Mission Motorsport's Brews and Banter at the Three Sisters Circuit in Wigan.

This time, the VIC team joined forces with Burnley FC in the Community's Veterans' Project.

The scheme works because the car owners provide vehicles and drivers to give the veterans a taste of life in the fast lane.

One, Matthew Everatt, even came along on his birthday with his Team Hadfield Motorsport Puma. He said: "Giving veterans a few high-speed laps isn't just fun; it's a way to safely reconnect with that sense of focus and energy they once knew so well."

The veterans loved the speed of the course, obviously the banter and laughs and one member also kindly paid for refreshments for all.

Call for action on memorial site

VIC is joining forces with businesses and community groups to ensure the Huncoat War Memorial is improved.

In 2014, Hyndburn Borough Council proposed relocating the memorial from Huncoat Recreation Ground to improve accessibility.

The proposal sparked outcry and a 'Don't Move the Cross' campaign was formed. In 2015, a formal consultation found only 5.2 per cent

of residents supported the idea but the memorial still needs remedial work, as does the steep and uneven ground around it.

VIC has joined the local community to call for work to be carried out on the Grade II Listed monument to make it safe for all to access.

The memorial was entirely paid for by public subscription and was unveiled in 1922.



A GROUNDBREAKING project that benefits older horses and helps nurture veterans, has the potential to revolutionise scent-seeking searches.

The work being pioneered at Adventure Neighground Livery, at Spring Vale Farm, Green Haworth, Accrington, was outlined to VIP guests the Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire Amanda Parker JP, and Deputy Lieutenants Cosima Towneley and Caroline Wareing.

Owner Kathryn Williams welcomed the VIP guests and, despite the very wet weather, was able to give a demonstration of the work the horses undertake.

She said: "This has been led and decided by the veterans who come here. We want to build a sustainable community.

"This is a partnership and, as we bring in more people, they will take ownership of their pathway, gaining confidence and independence."

The Lord Lieutenant praised how the project benefited all, not just

VIP visitors witness scent-training horses

"Years ago we wouldn't use a search dog."



the scent work, but the relationship between the horses and the veterans and the importance of veterans having a place to come where they have social engagement.

The idea of using horses to scent search came from Veterans In Communities member Royal Signal veteran Bob Brindley who had been on a course at the farm.

He had also been a member of Rossendale and Pendle Mountain Rescue Team where he used to work with scent dogs and he suggested to Kathryn that those training methods may work with the horses.

The programme

works on a reward basis and sees horses detecting scent, following trails and finding objects.

George, owned by Maria Hurley, is liveried at Neighground and demonstrated how he could find specific objects in a large field by putting his nose to the ground and sniffing them out. He was also able to reject an item that did not have the scent.

Then Household Cavalry veteran Sam Cooper showed how another older horse Dylan could find coffee-soaked sponges on a large menage by following the scent.

Sam said: "I had

never seen anything like it in my life. Being with horses is my happy place, doing scent work takes me away from family and home stress and I can relax. I wanted to be a part of this; it's brilliant."

Sam and Royal Signals veteran Neil

Veteran Bob Brindley

McKavett, have gone on to help Kathryn deliver courses including teaching veterinary students.

VIC Chief Executive Amanda Walton, Operations Manager Phil Speddy and Project Worker Ray Sharkey also attended.

Amanda Walton said: "We can see the difference the project has made to Sam. VIC is about offering people different activities and this is a great partnership."

After seeing the project in action, Deputy Lieutenant Caroline said: "I was skeptical before I came but now I

have seen it, it has been interesting and it is nice to see the horses learning new skills.

"The weather has been awful because of the wind and the rain but that makes what we have seen even more impressive given the conditions. It will be interesting to see how far they can go and where they can take it."

Keen horsewoman Deputy Lieutenant Cosima was impressed by the skills shown by the horses and asked about whether horses could be used to assist in searching terrain that was not suitable for dogs.

Bob replied: "We never say never. Years ago, we wouldn't use a search dog."



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.

HYNDBURN

Outreach / Drop-In/ Model Railway Club/ Art Group

FRIDAY 10am-3pm

VIC Hyndburn, Accrington Arndale Centre, BB5 1EX.

Accrington Stanley Breakfast Club/ Drop-In

LAST SATURDAY EVERY MONTH

10.30am-noon

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

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 Phil Speddy

philspeddy@vic.org.uk

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

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

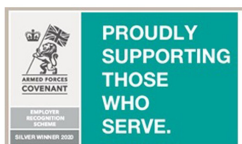
Veterans In Communities
Charity Number 1151194

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