



# VIC Newsletter

## Remembrance Ring of Red ride

VIC is going to be the chosen charity for the Ride of Respect parade in the North taking place on Remembrance Sunday November 12.

The Ring of Red M60 is a procession of military vehicles, thousands of motorbikes and cars carrying veterans, which will leave Birch Services Westbound and form a red procession around the motorway.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "VIC is delighted that the Ring of Red M60 organisers have again selected our charity to benefit from this event.

"We will be there with the

VIC crew van to explain to everyone the work of the charity. It is a great experience to be a part of and a sight to behold when the services is completely

taken over by motorbikes and people wearing red."

Anyone wanting to support VIC at the event should contact the office on 01706 833180.

In June, organisers Mandi Latham-Holmes and Jeanette Kiely visited VIC to talk to staff and members and were especially impressed with the way the organisation had supported people throughout the pandemic.



A stall, in front of Costa Coffee at the services, will be selling special Lest We Forget and 10 years cloth badges, as it is the 10th time the event has been held, as well as Ring of Red T-shirts.

Bob added: "The bikes are setting off at 1pm so we will not be back in time for the Haslingden Remembrance Service, but

members of VIC will be attending ceremonies of Remembrance across our areas of support."

Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth will also be attending Newhouse Academy in Heywood and St Saviour's in Bacup and has arranged for other veteran groups to support an event at Blessed Trinity in Burnley.



## Bikers boost for VIC

OUR friends at Throttle Twisters Motor Cycle Club revved it up a gear when they held a fundraiser for VIC.

At Chadderton Social Club, Oldham, they organised raffles including a very popular bottle string tombola, while member Jayce collected donations in a bucket which he then kindly matched raising nearly £500.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "There was no admission fee and the string bottle tombola was an excellent idea. The whole event raised more than £1,225 for VIC which was an amazing total.

"A small contingent of VIC members made the journey from Haslingden to show our support and we would like to say a big thanks to Throttle Twisters MCC for organising a great night."



## Book your place for Christmas lunch

A FABULOUS Christmas celebration lunch will be enjoyed by VIC at Haslingden Community Link, Bury Road, Haslingden, on Monday December 18.

Anyone wanting to attend needs to

book their choice of starter, main course and dessert and pay a non-refundable deposit of £10 by November 11.

The full cost of £20 per person needs to be paid by November 30. For menu information see the Facebook page or email amythompson@vic.org.uk



# Veterans united

**VETERANS** from Rossendale, Burnley and Blind Veterans UK joined VIC Ribble Valley's regular meeting at Trinity Methodist Church, Clitheroe.

One group came from Burnley Football Club in the Community on a social inclusion trip.

Project Worker Ray Sharkey said: "The



event would not have been such a success without the work of our dedicated volunteer team.

"Ron Flowers did a special quiz for the occasion, including a European flag test, Pat McEvoy made a fantastic buffet and we were assisted by Aaron Lorimer and

Byte Pir Paul and Duncan Phillips from Knowle Top Studios.

"We were also visited by the ladies from Blind Veterans UK, Audrey and Emma as we support quite a few veterans who are blind or partially sighted."



● Pat has now gone on her winter sabbatical across the pond. We wished her well and thanked her for everything she has done for the groups and for organising many social inclusion trips for VIC members.

Pat will be back at VIC in 2024, sporting a nice tan.



## Art on show in Bacup

**ARTWORK** created by Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell went on show at Mad Pride organised by Stubbylee Community Greenhouses in

**Bacup.**

Darren was accompanied by Chief Executive Amanda Walton and they met George Borowski reported to be 'Guitar George' mentioned in the lyrics of Dire Straits hit 'Sultans of Swing'.



## County's best

**CONGRATULATIONS** to our very own Administrator Amy Thompson who came first in the Lancashire County Standard Bearers Competition.

It was a very close call and well done to Andrew Taylor, Maf Servante Haddow, Chris Eglin and the new Lancashire Youth Standard Bearer Florrie.

## Monster veg grown

**A MONSTER** marrow and plump pumpkin were harvested from plants grown in the back yard at the VIC Centre in Haslingden.

The marrow was cooked and enjoyed by members of the Chatty Crafters, while Project Officer Ray Sharkey was looking forward to pumpkin soup.

The outer walls of the pumpkin were made into an appropriate Halloween lantern for VIC by a neighbour of Operations Manager Bob Elliott.



## Health check

**IN NOVEMBER** we are going to be arranging some monthly Free Health Checks at the VIC Centre in Haslingden for VIC members, their families and anyone from the local area.

The free health checks will also be rolled out to people who use our Accrington and Clitheroe outreaches who may find it difficult to come into our centre in Haslingden.

The health checks are for anyone between 40-74 and are part of a preventative measure against developing heart disease, stroke, diabetes, kidney disease and some form of dementia.

More details will be posted on our social media sites.

## Hearing loss

**AS WELL** as enjoying regular quizzes, Greggs snacks and socialisation, members of the our weekly Greggs RV on a Thursday had a visit from Steven Walmsley from Healthwatch Lancashire who brought along two medical students from UCLAN to explain about a project which is looking at hearing loss in the veteran community.

## Bike show

**A TRIP** is planned from VIC to the Motorcycle Live show at the NEC Birmingham on Wednesday November 22.

Admission tickets are £23, and there will be fuel costs. If you are interested in attending contact 01706 833180 before November 15.

## Railway gift

**A GENEROUS** donation of model railway buildings and scenery was made by Gareth from Dunblane to our model railway club, which is based in the basement of our Accrington Drop-In.



# Battle plans drawn up

**OUR historic battlefields tour trip is now fully booked and the final place, which has been paid for by a generous well-wisher, will be allocated in November.**

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "The final place will go to someone who fits certain criteria, for example they are on a low income or in receipt of certain benefits."

"It will be a lottery and the names of everyone eligible will be put into a hat on November 28 with one lucky person getting a free trip."

"We are asking people who are eligible for the sponsored place to express an interest

## DWP link

**VIC has been involved in meetings to encourage more support for veterans visiting Department of Work and Pensions Jobcentres.**

Gary Shivers is the DWP Armed Forces Champion for Cumbria and Lancashire.



Gary served 23 years in the Queen's Royal Hussars. His remit now it so ensure the veteran community is aware of what support there is on offer regardless of their employment status.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "At Blackburn, we met DWP staff and work coaches to look at the services that are on offer when veterans go into Jobcentres and Gary joined us over Zoom."

"We also met with the Disability Employment Advisors at Burnley Jobcentre and at the VIC Centre so they could see what we do."



and pay a £50 deposit to Administrator Amy Thompson by the November 21.

"The deposits will be refunded after the name has been picked."

At a recent Battlefields Tour meeting at the VIC Centre in Haslingden, some of the arrangements were finalised and hotels and ferry crossings are in the process of being booked.

On September 9 2024, the party will leave Haslingden, drive to Portsmouth and catch the ferry to Le Havre, followed by a short drive to Caen for two nights.

On Tuesday and Wednesday they will visit Arromanche, Juno, Pegasus Bridge and Caen, but there is some flexibility where they visit.

On Wednesday they will stay overnight in the Amien area and the party can visit some of the First World War sites before crossing into

Belgium to Menin Gate where they will observe the nightly Last Post.

On the Thursday night, they are hoping to stay at the Talbot House hotel in Poperinge, which was used during the First World War as an R&R centre.

Finally, on Friday, the tour will travel to Calais, board a ferry to Dover and drive back to Haslingden.

The approximate cost is £400 per person which includes accommodation, breakfast and evening meals. It is expected to be shared accommodation where appropriate to keep the costs down, which we will all have experienced during our service.

Others on the trip are: Darren Horsnell, Bob Elliott, Raymond Sharkey, Ron Flowers, Aaron Lorimer, Paul Wilcock, Samantha Kelly, Mandy Brennan, Michael Anthony Leather and Phil Speddy.

## Bay Veterans

**MEMBERS of Bay Veterans Association have been meeting with VIC to get help on how to develop their provision in the Morecambe area.**

Chief Executive Amanda Walton said: "They have recently set up a Community Interest Company and have asked us to help support them."

"They already host breakfast clubs and want to move into their own premises and the board came to the VIC Centre to see how we do things at here to see if they can set up a similar model in their area."

The group meets from 10am to noon at The York, Lancaster Road, Morecambe, on the first, second and third Wednesdays and first Saturday of each month.

A further breakfast club meets on the fourth Wednesday at Morecambe Football Club.

VIC will be arranging a social inclusion trip to visit Bay Veterans in the future.



**A huge thank you to everyone who supported the VIC choir when they sang at Tesco Haslingden and raised £208.65. Thanks to Community Champion Wendy, staff and customers and Lorraine for helping with the bucket collection.**

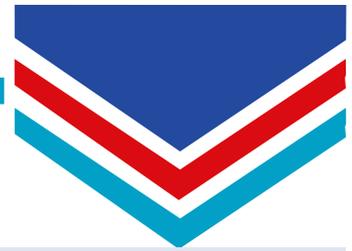
## Carp fishing

**A FUNDRAISING 48-hour carp fishing trip on November 12 is now fully booked.**

The event is raising money for VIC and will be held at Berner's Hall Fishery near Chelmsford.

There are a few spaces left on a fundraising carp fishing competition at Sandhurst Lake, Hampshire, June 26 2024.

For more information contact Darren Horsnell on 01706 833180.



## ROSSENDALE

Activities are held 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 and Quiz

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

### Redoubt Coffee Morning and Outreach

**TUESDAYS**

10am-noon

Trinity Methodist Church, Wesleyan Row, Parson Lane Clitheroe, BB7 2JY.

## 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 In Communities  
Charity Number 1151194**

### 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](http://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](mailto: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

### Outreach Service

### TUESDAY

10.30am-noon

Rovers Breakfast Hub, Legends Lounge, Darwen End, Blackburn Rovers FC, Ewood Park, Blackburn, BB2 4JF.

**Want to help?**

To support VIC  
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VIC supported by:



Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board



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