



Military manoeuvre

A MILITARY style operation was carried out to move a gigantic raised bed planter made by VIC into position at an Oswaldtwistle sanctuary.

Only Foals and Horses is having extensive work carried out on its site. Members of VIC visited the sanctuary at the end of April when they were offered a taster session on equine therapy, and were asked if they could help with some of the work that was being carried out.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "The centre has some jobs that it needed doing and we offered to make some

raised bed planters for the area outside of the café where they are looking to make a seating area."

VIC arrived on location with one of the planters secured to the top of the crew van and a smaller one inside.

Fortunately trustee Mark Pooley was able to use his digger's bucket to manoeuvre the huge planter from the van roof and onto the patio area.

Bob said: "This was a good project for VIC because it enabled us to work with another organisation and to show our skills in building and construction.

"The raised beds were made from recycled wood at our

centre and they have gone to a good home."

The sanctuary is home to 65 horses and ponies and is set in 26 acres of land on Redshell Lane.

In July volunteers and families from The Forresters will be attending to help create a garden area in a bank of grass near the tea rooms as well as planting the raised beds and all the plants will be sourced from local garden centre Brookside.

Trustee Kathryn Williams said: "The planters are gorgeous and as there is a huge amount going on with indoors stables work, it's lovely to have something that will



make the exterior look better too

"We will also be looking to have edible plants in the planters that we can then use in our tea room."

Trustee Carolyn Pooley said: "We have a lot of building work going on at the moment. We have made new stables and have a new education and training lecture area so we will have a separate area for educational work.

"We are creating an indoor area to

work on training ponies and for therapy. We will be creating a more suitable area for horses for the farrier and also a washing area."

It is hoped the improvements will be finished at the end of July, beginning of August.

Veterans In Production is now creating bespoke planters to order. Contact 01706 833180 and ask for Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth.

Veterans and Voices delight

A SPLENDID concert that united VIC Singing Group and Haslingden and Helmshore Band raised an amazing £1,000.

The VIC fundraiser was held at St Mary's Church, Rawtenstall, and entertained an audience of more than 100.

Admin Officer Amanda Walton said: "It was absolutely fantastic and was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Rossendale Councillor Ann Kenyon and

her sister Susan Kapler and the Mayor of Whitworth Councillor Madeleine De Souza.

"It was the second time we have held Veterans and Voices and it was even better supported. It is definitely going to become an annual event now. There was great music, great singing, great entertainment and it was a great night."



Grave restored by VIC

A FIRST World War soldier's gravestone that had fallen into disrepair and was broken has been restored by VIC.

As part of the works that our charity has been undertaking to mark the commemoration of the First World War, VIC was approached by Liz Latham, a local resident from Edenfield, who had been conducting some research about local lads who took part.

She had come across a family grave belonging to the Lord family in a local churchyard.

The headstone had suffered some major damage over the years, but because of



its weight and the fact it was made of marble it was not going to be an easy task.

However, veterans Bill Ogden, Mick Armstrong and Mick Perry rose to the

challenge and they were able to put the stone back together.

Bill said: "After a great deal of manoeuvring of the headstone, we managed to replace the old copper pins with new stainless steel pins.

"Mick Perry coated the base with some resin material and then it was time to try to match the two pieces together.

"To our relief we managed to fit the two sections together and the pins dropped nicely into the holes. After 15 minutes the resin was set and the headstone was good as new."

T/313257 Driver H Lord of the Royal Army Service Corps, who died on August 28th 1917, once again stands straight and proud.



In memory

DISTRICT nurse Helen Blackhurst handed over a cheque for £270 to VIC to Project Worker Jaqui Collins.

Jaqui attended the Smallbridge District Nurses meeting. The money was in memory of Helen's mother, Elizabeth Denvir, who recently passed away.



Poignant visit for vets

SEVERAL members of VIC paid their first ever visit to the National Arboretum in Staffordshire and already there are plans to return.

The trip has also inspired artist and VIC member Liz Taylor to put paint to canvas as she took lots of photographs.

For Second World War

veteran Doug Hocken and veterans Jimmy Elsworth and David Hoyle it was the first time they had visited the location. By chance, Jimmy met up with his former Company Sergeant Major and RAF navigator Doug had his photograph taken next to the RAF memorial.

Centre open

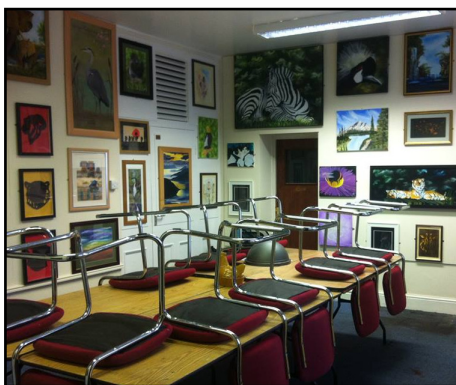
OUR centre was open again on Bank Holiday Monday for veterans to pop in for a natter, entertainment and food.

This time we are very grateful to Haslingden Community Link for providing delicious pie and veg followed by sponge pudding and custard.

Art room gets a revamp

VISITORS to our art room will notice that there have been a few improvements.

Over several days we boarded the walls to provide a space to hang artwork that will not now cause any damage to the existing walls of



the centre.

For a short while, the art room had to be decommissioned, but now, thanks to an army of helpers - including nine members of VIC - it is fully

reopen.

The walls are now covered in artwork produced by members of the various groups and Bob Ross classes that are held every month at VIC.



BOOKS galore have been donated to VIC and in turn given to Tesco, Haslingden, to be sold for charities including ours.

VIC alone collected four trolleys worth and anyone with unwanted books that are in good condition can leave them at VIC or Tesco for resale.

● **Our book bin collection boxes raised £30.75 at Haslingden's Co-op and £27.23 at Norden's Co-op.**

Whitehough

A FURTHER team building challenge day will be held at Whitehough Outdoor Education Centre, Barley, on Thursday June 28.

The centre is now run by Burnley FC in the Community and two other teambuilding days were held in May.

Info stand

VIC had an Information Stand at the Men's Health Event at Castleton Medical Centre.



How our allotment grows



OUR allotment has been transformed in recent weeks thanks to the dedication of volunteers.

VIC Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth is managing the project and has had help from Andy Greaves, Bob Elliott and Ivy Limbrick.

Ivy made a stunning bat box and beautiful bug hotels, one for the allotment and the second for the yard behind the VIC Centre.

Steve has fitted the bat box to a tree and has completed a rain catchment system to aid watering on site.

Steve said: "We have had some lovely afternoons down at the allotment.

"Thanks to Andy Greaves and Ivy Limbrick for their much appreciated help.

"Anyone who hasn't visited the allotment yet, you don't know what you're missing. It is looking more awesome by the

week.

"Everything planted is growing well and thanks to Andy and Bob we have another planter installed along with the one I made.

"Andy has filled one and finished the strawberry stumpery, with top soil along with a couple of smaller planters. Hopefully, there should be a good variety to harvest later in the year."

More plants have been provided by Dig In NorthWest, another veterans' charity.

VIC intend to go over to the charity's Preston base in the near future to work with them, so they can show members how to carve wood and stone, make garden furniture and learn a range of skills.

VIC also received plant donations from Stubblee Community Greenhouses, Lets Grow Preston and HMP Kirkham.

"I love coming to the Breakfast Club and the Sandbag Café; you're not getting rid of me now."

Vincent, 85.

(He has just enrolled on an eight-week computer course and attended the Veterans and Voices concert.)



FOUR members of VIC came face-to-face with themselves when they enjoyed an artistic weekend working with Bravo 22 staff and members. They sculpted self portraits as part of a project to see how veterans see themselves in a different form and how it makes them feel.

Veterans visit to mosque

VETERANS gained a better understanding of the Islamic faith on a visit to the Khizra Mosque in Manchester.

They were shown round by

Sandra, taken into the prayer room, the community room and the peace garden and enjoyed a delicious meal.

In the peace garden there is a

plaque, a rose bush and a maple tree, these were presented to the mosque a year after the Manchester bombing.

Overseas donation

VIC received a generous donation all the way from the Netherlands.

Member Bill Ogden accompanied senior member of VIC Lewis Banham and a close friend of VIC Dougie Farrington, both Second World War veterans, on a return trip to the Netherlands Liberation Celebrations.

Bill said: "While there we had the pleasure of being invited to the home of Ron Manten. Ron was one of the organisers of Het Gooi Bevrijd and he and his family treated us to a delightful spread including a sample of the local brew.

"During the course of the meal Ron very kindly made a presentation of 150 euros to Veterans in Communities to help them continue their good work."

Bill presented the money to VIC Chief Executive Liz Hamilton.



Amazing artwork



Brockholes trip

WILDLIFE, stunning scenery and pleasant walks around Brockholes Nature Reserve were enjoyed by VIC members on a social inclusion trip.

John Edwards said: "I took myself off on a two-mile hike and did a bit of bird watching. I saw ducks and a heron."

World Cup sweepstake

FINGERS crossed that the World Cup winners will be Germany or Portugal.

Two teams were left over in a World Cup office sweepstake at Filter Fabrications in Haslingden and they were gifted to VIC... if either team win VIC gets £150.



ROSSENDALE

Activities are held at the VIC Centre, Bury Road, Haslingden, BB4 5PL, unless otherwise stated.

Outreach Service

MONDAY-FRIDAY

10am-3pm

For a home appointment call 01706 833180

MONDAY

Crafty Chatters

10.30am-12.30pm

TUESDAY

Allotment in Helmshore

Volunteers are being sought to help Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth with the allotment on Holcombe Road, Helmshore. Contact 01706 833180.

WEDNESDAY

Community Arts and Crafts

10am-noon

Art Class

2pm-4pm

Jubilee Court, Jubilee Road, Haslingden, BB4 4DD.

THURSDAY

Singing Group (weekly)

6.30-8.30pm

TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

Art Group and drop-in

10.30am-3.30pm

SECOND SATURDAY

Veterans' Breakfast Club

10am-12-30pm

Bumbles' Cafe, Haslingden Community Link, Bury Road, Haslingden BB4 5PG

Walking Group, Social Outings and Outdoor Activities

These are held every **THURSDAY**. Please visit the *Events* section on our VIC Facebook page or log on to the VIC website and follow the link to *Projects and Activities*. Places must be booked.

Positive Art

Our art shop is now based at the VIC Centre, Bury Road, Haslingden, BB4 5PL, contact 01706 833180 for details.

HEYWOOD, MIDDLETON AND ROCHDALE

The Sandbag Cafe and drop in

TUESDAY

10am-noon

Sandon House, Taylor Street, Heywood OL10 4EF.

TUESDAY AND SOME FRIDAYS

FROM MAY 11am-3pm

Allotment, Latrigg Crescent, Langley, Middleton M24 4LU.

Check with VIC 01706 833180

THURSDAY

9.30-10.30am Rochdale Breakfast Club, Rochdale Town Hall Bistro OL16 1AB.

10.30am-noon

VIC Outreach

1 Riverside, Rochdale OL16 1UB.

THURSDAY

11.30am-1.30pm

Lighthouse Project, Unit S6b/c Middleton Shopping Centre, Limetrees Road, Middleton M24 4EL.

Check with VIC 01706 833180

HYNDBURN

Outreach Service

MONDAYS

1-3pm

Ground floor near cafe Accrington Market.

VIC – 01706 833180 Contacts

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07961 554 006

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Transformational Coach Gill Hughes

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Volunteer Outreach Worker Carole Mills

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Volunteer Outreach Worker Liz Davies

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Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell

darrenhorsnell@vic.org.uk

Outdoor Activities Co-ordinator Ivy Limbrick

ivylimbrick@vic.org.uk

Singing Group Bookings Barry Hyde

barryhyde@vic.org.uk

Combat Stress Helpline

0800 138 1619

NHS Military Veterans Psychological Therapies Service (NW)

0161 253 6638

The Royal British Legion

0808 802 8080 7 days a week 8am - 8pm

SSAFA

email Lancashire@ssafo.org.uk

01772 260 462

Rossendale Citizens' Advice

0300 456 2552 Mon to Fri 10am-4pm

The Samaritans

01706 830999 Freephone 116 123

Mental Health Helpline

0800 915 4640 Mon to Fri 7pm - 11pm Sat & Sun 12 noon to 12 midnight

Royal Air Forces Association

01772 426930

Veterans UK Free Helpline

0808 1914 218

East Lancashire Single Point of Access via GP or self-referral

01282 657116

Bolton Armed Forces Centre 4 Veterans

www.ba4v.org 01204 776628

PENDLE

Outreach Service

10am-noon

MONDAY - first week only

Place de Creil, near Wilkos, Nelson.

MONDAY - second week only

Market Place Car park, Town Square Colne.

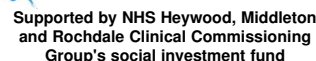
Contact 01706 833180 for dates of outreach at the Armed Forces Support Group, Holmefield Mill, Gisburn Road, Barrowford.

Want to help?

To donate to support the work of Veterans In Communities please visit our website and click on the secure BT MyDonate page

www.vic.org.uk

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