



Covenant funding for Project Worker

THANKS to the success of the VIC's shop in Hyndburn and the opening of outreach in Ribble Valley, we are now seeking a further Project Worker.

The new role at VIC will expand the work that has already started in the Hyndburn and Ribble Valley areas.

VIC is seeking a pro-active, energetic and focused Project Worker to work full time.

Ministry of Defence funding, through the Armed Forces Covenant, will be covering the costs of the position, which is

initially for 12 months.

Chief Executive Amanda Walton: "The right candidate will have skills and knowledge in networking, partnership development, one-to-one support for individuals, delivering training and awareness raising sessions and have excellent communication skills."

For a job description, person specification and application form, email amandawalton@vic.org.uk

Applications must arrive by 12 noon on Thursday January 30 and interviews will take place on Thursday February 6.



Guitar finds a forever home

WHEN VIC member David Thorpe died late last year he left his beloved guitar to VIC.

Transformational Coach Gill Hughes has presented the fender bass guitar to Simon Wallis, Headteacher of

Barnacre Road Primary School, Longridge.

VIC was a beneficiary of money raised through school Remembrance projects about the First World War.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "Rather than

just sell it, we thought it was important that the guitar should go to someone who would treasure it.

"Although Simon doesn't play... yet... he has said he will be having lessons and will then play the guitar in school."



Toddlers aid veterans

NURSERY pupils held a reverse advent calendar and donated the gifts to VIC.

Toddlers from Greenhouse Farm Nursery in Haslingden called in to present the goods which were added to Christmas hampers.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "We are very grateful for all the donations of items we received which enabled us to make 30 hampers that were distributed to veterans

and veterans' families for Christmas. We received so many items we have also been able to make up emergency food parcels for veterans in need."

The VIC Centre provided veterans with a welcome place to visit over the festive period when most organisations close their doors.

On New Year's Day, Rossendale veterans also attended the Sandbag Café in Heywood to enjoy brunch.



Singers' amazing total

THREE concerts in supermarkets by our VIC Choir over the festive season raised an amazing £1,600 for the charity.

They sang in Asda Rawtenstall and twice in Tesco Haslingden with the last performance

yielding an incredible £737.59.

Choir members also contributed donations in lieu of Christmas cards.

A huge thank you both to the choir and those who volunteered to collect.

RIP Douggie Hocken



IT IS with great sadness we have to report the death of one of our members Douggie Hocken.

Douggie, who was 92, served in the RAF towards the end of the Second World War and was then posted to India where he saw the Partition of India.

He was a football talent scout and referee.

Until he became too ill to travel, he was regular at the VIC Centre on Fridays and the Rossendale

Armed Forces Breakfast Club. He joined some of the social inclusion trips and also collected at the VIC Choir supermarket performances.

One of his proudest moments when he joined VIC was when he was presented with his blazer, tie and beret on his 90th birthday celebrations, which were held at the VIC Centre.

His funeral was held at Accrington Crematorium when veterans formed a guard of honour.

Donate gifts to aid VIC

UNWANTED gifts will be well received by VIC and turned into raffle and tombola prizes to raise money for the organisation.

The continued expansion of the Arts and Crafts groups both in the Haslingden centre, at the Hyndburn shop and in the community will benefit from money raised.

Donations can be left at VIC Centre in Haslingden or at the VIC shop in Accrington Arndale shopping Centre.

Book Rolls Royce tour

VETERANS have been offered a tour of Rolls Royce in April.

When booking a place shoe sizes are also needed because all visitors will have to wear safety boots.

The trip will only last a few hours and the crew van will be used for transport. Places are limited to a maximum of 10.



Unique Valentine gifts are being made by veterans. The calligraphy roses can be personalised, call 01706 833180.

VIC member Bill Buckley received a cheque for £500 from Phil Chamberlain and Councillor Dale Ferrier from Burnley Conservative Association proceeds of sponsored War Memorial walk.



Darren's class masterpieces

HAVING written about Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell's Bob Ross art classes for many years, when I saw the Christmas picture I decided to give it a go.

Many years ago, I got a B in my Art O level and since then I have done a few paintings and pastel drawings, but nothing quite on this scale.

For anyone who wondering if they should try the class, just give it a go.

Darren is a superb teacher, very calm, knowledgeable and he makes sure everyone understands what they are being asked to do.

The final result is astounding and my picture has pride of place in my new home.

The old adage 'no experience necessary'

is true as there is plenty of guidance and help from Darren and others and all equipment is provided.

The next painting in the style of Bob Ross class is on Feb 1 and 2 at the VIC Centre from 10.30am to 3pm; cost £40. All materials and refreshments included, a packed lunch is recommended and £15 deposit is requested, book on 01706 833180.





2019... what a year



HERE are some of our activities and news from 2019. All our other news can also be viewed in the Newsletters and New Stories sections of our website www.vic.org.uk.

NEW YEAR BRUNCH

A New Year's Day Brunch at Heywood's Sandbag Cafe started the year off in style. Attendees at the Sandbag grew throughout the year and a committee was formed, which now runs the Tuesday sessions and organises Remembrance services, social trips and a two year birthday party.

MILITARY PREPARATION

In January we worked with students on the military preparation programme. They worked on the allotment and with Veterans In Production.

TRAINING

A number of training sessions were held throughout the year including; First Aid and Volunteer Training, telephone and internet scams, IT and alcohol and drugs awareness. VIC is now able to deliver a range of accredited First Aid courses which will bring in extra funding into the charity in 2020.

OUTDOOR CHANGES

Following a consultation with our members, walks have been changed to make them more challenging. Social inclusion trips were reduced due to demand.

BOB ROSS

Bob Ross art classes continue to be delivered each month and have been so successful that some months have seen two classes held.

CHATTY CRAFTERS

The Crafty Chatters meet every Monday and have made

a number of crafts items that have been sold at craft fairs. In the last six months the VIC Hyndburn Drop-in has also successfully sold the craft items.

ALLOTMENT

Our allotment has seen a good crop of vegetables again this year, and the addition of a polytunnel has seen us cultivating seeds. In 2020 we are aiming to produce a range of flowers as well.

PROJECT WORKER

Our Project Worker for Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale is now embedded into the Integrated Neighbourhood Teams and has held information stands at many of the health centres.

VIC CHOIR

The Choir raised an outstanding amount through performances and community events. They have changed from a group to a choir, and are now well known throughout the Valley.

ART GROUPS

The art group held an exhibition in May in Bolton and the new Hyndburn Drop-in Shop has become an ideal venue to display art and crafts.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

We undertook community projects this year at St James School in Haslingden and Waterfoot Health Centre.

HYNDBURN OPEN

The Hyndburn Veterans' Drop-in opened during Armed Forces Week. Both the shop and drop-in, in the Arndale, are well used by veterans and the public and provide a good place to showcase different activities VIC carries out. The shop is staffed by volunteers who live locally.

D-DAY REMEMBRANCE

VIC members attended a

number of D-Day commemorative services and events. Second World War veterans Lewis Banham travelled to Holland and France, while Jack Cunnane was present at the National Arboretum.

CURRY AND QUIZ

We held two Curry and Quiz nights in 2019 and a summer barbecue at the VIC Centre. All were well attended and will be repeated in 2020.

TOM DAVIES TROPHY

In June, VIC was presented with the Tom Davies Trophy at Preston Town Hall. The award acknowledged VIC's 'outstanding contribution' to the Armed Forces Community in Lancashire. Lord Lieutenant of Lancashire Lord Shuttleworth KG KCVO presented the trophy.

AGM

In September we held our AGM, it was well attended and the last for our outgoing CEO Liz Hamilton after four years. Our new CEO Amanda Walton gave an overview of moving VIC forward into 2020.

OUTREACH EXTENSION

In September we launched two further outreaches; the Ribble Valley outreach and coffee morning in Billington and an outreach and Coffee Club at The Lighthouse Project in Middleton Shopping Centre.

SESSIONAL WORKER

We employed a Sessional Worker to run the VIP project in October; after receiving a grant from the Lottery Awards for All to develop this project.

NATIONAL FINALISTS

In September three VIC members were recognised at the English Awards: Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth was a finalist in the Role Model of the Year category for his work

in the community as well as with the charity; Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell was awarded silver in the Community Award while Liz Davies was a bronze finalist in Volunteer of the Year.

LEST WE FORGET

The successful Lest We Forget range using sublimation was launched and is becoming a popular addition to the arts and crafts project. VIC members attended a number of Remembrance services across East Lancashire and Greater Manchester throughout the year.

HAMPER CHEER

Thirty Christmas hampers were delivered to veterans; generous donations of food made this possible.

FESTIVE MEAL

The VIC Christmas meal saw more than 50 members tucking in at Old Mother Rednap.

COVENANT SIGNING

VIC signed the Armed Forces Covenant in 2019 and we hope to gain the Bronze Award in 2020.

VETERAN FRIENDLY GPS

We have been proactive in engaging with GPs and health centres to encourage them to become 'Veteran Friendly' practices across Heywood, Middleton, Rochdale and East Lancashire.

We have partnered with the Lancashire Veterans' Hub and The Royal British Legion to deliver a number of workshops promoting veterans' health and 'Veterans Friendly' practices in Lancashire.

IN MEMORIAM

In 2019 we sadly lost some VIC members; Dave Goss, Sam Stretch, James Kay, David Thorpe, Carole Mills, Alex Simpson and George Henshall. We will remember them.



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

WEDNESDAY

Allotment and Veterans In Production

Help on the allotment in Holcombe Road, Helmshore, or manufacture wooden items at the centre. Contact 01706 833180.

Art Class

2pm-4pm

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

THURSDAY

Woodworking Course

10am-3pm

THURSDAY

Computer and IT help drop-in

11am-3pm

VIC Choir (weekly)

6.30-8.30pm

FRIDAY

Art Group and drop-in

10am-3.30pm

SECOND SATURDAY

Rossendale Armed Forces and Veterans' Breakfast Club

10am-12.30pm

The Link Cafe, Haslingden Community Link, Bury Road, Haslingden BB4 5PG

EVERY MONTH

Painting in the Style of Bob Ross art classes

Contact Darren 01706 833180.

Walking Group, Social Outings and Outdoor Activities

These are held every

THURSDAY. Visit the *Events* section on our VIC Facebook page or the VIC website and follow the link to *Projects and Activities*.

9.30am-11.30pm

Ebenezer's Coffee Shop, The Old Chapel, Ebenezer's Terrace, Billington, BB7 9NN.

RIBBLE VALLEY

Outreach Service

TUESDAYS

BURNLEY AND PENDLE

Outreach Service

TUESDAY - alternate weeks

Breakfast Club at Burnley FC in the Community Cafe, Charter Walk.

9am-11am

Contact 01706 833180 for dates of outreach at Burnley FC in the Community, the Pendle Armed Forces Support Group, Holmefield Mill, Gisburn Road, Barrowford, at Morrisons in Nelson and Asda in Colne.

HEYWOOD, MIDDLETON AND ROCHDALE

The Sandbag Cafe and drop in

TUESDAY

10am-noon

Sandon House, Taylor Street, Heywood OL10 1EF.

VIC Outreach

TUESDAY

12.30pm-2.30pm

Middleton Gardens, M24 1AB

VIC Middleton Coffee Club

1pm-2.30pm

The Lighthouse Project, Middleton Shopping Centre, M24 1AB.

THURSDAY

9am-10.30am Rochdale Breakfast Club Rochdale Town Hall Bistro OL16 1AB.

10.30am-noon

VIC Outreach

1 Riverside, Rochdale OL16 1UB.

HYNDBURN

Outreach Service and Art Group

TUESDAY

10am-3pm

VIC Shop, Accrington Arndale Centre, BB5 1PL.

FRIDAY

Outreach Service

10.30am-3pm

Contacts

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Outdoor Activities Co-ordinator Ivy Limbrick

ivylimbrick@vic.org.uk

Sessional Worker Bernard Tighe

bernardtigue@vic.org.uk

VIC Choir 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

The Samaritans

01282 694929 Mon to Fri 9am-9pm

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

0800 018 2361

Veterans UK Free Helpline

0808 1914 218

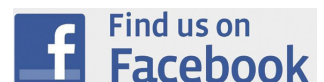
East Lancashire Single Point of Access via GP or self-referral

01282 657116

Bolton Armed Forces Centre 4 Veterans

www.ba4v.org 01204 776628

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