

Volunteers keep VIC going during Covid-19

A HUGE thank you was paid to the veteran volunteers who have given many hours of their own time during the Covid-19 pandemic.

During National Volunteer Week, VIC Chief Executive Officer Amanda Walton said: "Our volunteers have done an amazing job throughout this pandemic.

"They have provided welfare checks for our members, visited some members while maintaining social distancing, carried out essential shopping, assisted with the delivery of food parcels, provided online groups for arts and crafts, made cakes for the Army mobile testing centre and decorated the centre in recognition of VE Day.

"A massive thank you to all of our volunteers. We couldn't do what we do without you."

Volunteer food deliverers were: William Ogden, Jacko Pearce

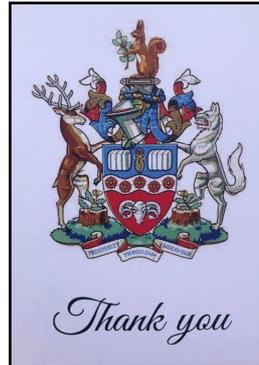
and Brian McEvoy with help from Baz Thorpe and Gary Horrocks.

In Burnley Volunteer Outreach Workers Robert Holder and Philip Chamberlain delivered food parcels and supported members in isolation while in Heywood Ian Rosales and Bob Fallon supported some of the older attendees from the Sandbag Café

Julie Davis baked cakes which were taken to MOD Testing Stations in Rawtenstall and Cissy Greens in Haslingden provided pies and cakes for Clitheroe.

Darren Horsnell has been holding regular online art and Bob Ross classes and Ivy Limbrick now runs the craft group online.

Brian McEvoy has



been helping to tidy gardens, paint fences and refurbish benches out in the community.

Our trustees, who are all volunteers, have supported the charity during the crisis through

attending regular online meetings

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "The future will see us developing further activities through Zoom when we can't meet at the VIC Centre. Thanks to some recent funding we have launched an online photography group and other social meetings will be held online until we can resume our services at the VIC Centre and in Heywood."

As part of National Volunteers Week, VIC received a lovely thank you card from the Mayor of Rossendale Councillor Barbara Ashworth.

VIC shop opens doors on Friday

PLANS are being drawn up to reopen the VIC drop-in shop at Accrington's Arndale Centre and restart some outdoor activities.

The shop will reopen on June 26, on Fridays only initially, and all visitors will be asked to follow instructions and strict safe social distancing while on the premises.

In July we will resume the Thursday walks, but these will just be for six participants, at a social distance, and will involve everyone taking part making their own way to the start point.

Veterans In Production, run by Sessional Worker Bernard Tighe, has already reopened and work on our allotment in Helmshore will be carried out.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "We will be slowly starting to bring activities back, but, at this stage, some will remain online using the Zoom platform.

"Please follow our Facebook page and Twitter for more information."

Thank you from Positive Start

VIC volunteers received a lovely thank you from Positive Start volunteer Jo Shakeel.

Along with others, VIC volunteered helpers and transport to assist the Food Group over 11 weeks to deliver food parcels to people isolating and shielding in Haslingden and Helmshore areas.

Jo said: "Over the past 11 weeks the dedication and support shown by our fantastic group of volunteers has been remarkable. Thank you."

The Food Group is now making up parcels to be collected from Positive Start in Rawtenstall.



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email stevebutterworth@vic.org.uk
call Bev Fowler 07741902343
email beverleyfowler@vic.org.uk
call Gill Hughes 07741902411
email gillhughes@vic.org.uk



Photo tuition focuses vets

AMATEUR photographers are exploring their local area with a new pair of eyes thanks to an online photography course at VIC.

'Developing Veterans' is being run by Emma Holt through Zoom and a grant was obtained to ensure the centre had equipment to loan out to participants if needed.

Administrator Amy Thompson said: "We had 14 people, including the tutor, on the first of a 12-week course.

"Every two weeks, Emma is giving us a word prompt for take photos and the first one is 'shape'. She explained how we can take photos from different angles by and at different levels. We have set up a closed Facebook group so the participants can share their photographs."

New people are welcome to join the sessions; contact Amy on 01706 833180 for more details.

Lorna Lageard took this close up of a Red Cardinal beetle after the first session.



More stunning artwork has been created by the online Zoom Bob Ross classes led by Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell



Helping Whitehough prepare to open

MAINTENANCE work at Burnley FC in the Community's base at Whitehough in Barley, Pendle, was carried out by veterans.

The Burnley Veterans' Group was joined by members of VIC who helped to prepare the outward bound location so it can reopen to the public as soon as government restrictions permit.

Volunteer Outreach Worker Phil Chamberlain said: "We are helping out doing building maintenance work and grounds maintenance to make sure it is ready for the new season, which will hopefully begin in July.

"It is nice to be able to get

the veterans out and to speak to them in person after some have been in lockdown for 10 to 14 weeks.

"It was good to be out and doing something good for the community as a way of paying back and all at a safe social distance."

He said he hoped that an agreement could be reached so the veterans carrying out essential maintenance would next year be able to enjoy a special veterans' weekend during Armed Forces Week.

The centre would be open just for veterans with accessible indoor accommodation, tents for those wanting to camp, and activities available around the site.

Join crafty team online

TUESDAY's online craft sessions are open to all.

Administrator Amy Thompson said: "We have people joining in doing a variety of different craft projects: fretwork, cross stitch, crochet, sewing and making resin jewellery. It is



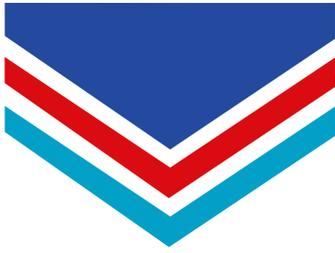
great to see and hear everyone chatting. For some people, who have been in lockdown for weeks, it helps them to meet different people."

The craft group is held every Tuesday on Zoom at 10am, contact Amy on 01706 833180 for details.

Union Jacks to be raised

FLAGS will be raised at the War Memorial at Greenfield Gardens in Haslingden and also outside the VIC Centre.

Normally, a range of activities would be held for Armed Forces Week, but the Covid-19 pandemic has led to all events being cancelled.



Bench refurbished for Tracey



VETERANS restored a family bench in time for member Tracey Vick's return home from hospital.

Her fiancée Darren Horsnell, VIC's Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator, said: "Tracey and I would like to thank VIC, Bob Elliott and Bernard Tighe, for saving my father-in-law's garden bench from certain demise. "Many years ago, when Tracey's dad passed away,

the one thing that Tracey wanted to keep was her dad's bench. She had fond memories of us all sitting and chatting to him before he lost his battle with cancer.

"The bench meant the world to Tracey. It was a huge shock to Tracey when Bob Elliott returned the bench to where it had been since her dad's passing.

"Tracey came home from hospital to find all the front

garden had also been tidied up and weeded. The garden waste had gone and it had all been swept up.

"She could not have been happier. I got a big pat on the back, a big kiss and lots praise. (I still have not told her that it was Brian McEvoy that did it all)

"The stool, that Carol Duckworth delivered for Tracey, was perfect and the food parcel was much appreciated."



Veterans artwork to brighten care home

ARTWORK created by members of VIC is now brightening up Stainton Way Care Home in Middlesbrough.

The convalescent, day, palliative and respite care centre put out an appeal for artworks to brighten up the rooms of residents.

Jessica Leigh Snowden is the centre's activities and mental health wellbeing co-ordinator and her mother Sally Anne is a VIC member and also attends the Bob Ross and VIC art groups.

VIC artists were quick to respond to the request and donated some of their works, along with other creative items, to help while away the hours and to brighten the walls.

Sally said: "I felt immensely proud to bring the paintings to the care home. On behalf of Stainton Way Care Home, I would like to thank VIC and the artists: Darren Horsnell, Liz Taylor and Steve Butterworth."



Vinny's model railway donation

A VERY generous donation of model railway rolling stock, track, buildings and scenery has been given to VIC from Heywood veteran Vinny.

VIC was able to help him in his quest for a cassette tape player so he could listen to his music and in return he provided our model railway club with boxes of kit.

The Model Railway Club will be building an installation in the cellar of the Hyndburn shop, once restrictions permit.



D-Day heroes

THE lockdown anniversary of D-Day meant our veterans did not have the chance to revisit the beaches.

VIC salutes our Second World War serving veteran members; (from the top) Lewis Banham, Jack Riley, Jack Cunnane and Harvey (Paddy) O'Hara.

On June 6, 1944, 76 years ago, over 150,000 British, Canadian and American troops landed on the Normandy Coast on 5 beaches; Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword.

Over the next five days 326,000 troops, 50,000 vehicles and over 100,000 tons were landed in Normandy. More than 4,000 Allied troops lost their lives in the D-Day invasion.

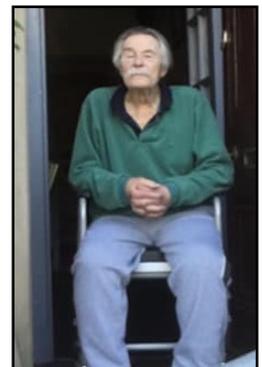


Peter Maffett

IT IS with sadness that VIC has been informed of the passing of a Second World War veteran Peter Maffett.

Peter, 94, was a member of the Burnley Veterans Group and featured in last month's VIC News as Volunteer Outreach Workers Phil Chamberlain and Robert Holder presented him with a VE-Day present.

He served in Greece and Italy during the Second World War with the Northumberland Fusiliers and leaves his daughter Laura and family.





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.

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, Armed

Forces Support Group, Holmefield House,

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

The Mess Tin - cafe and drop in

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

Want to help?

To donate to support the work of VIC please visit our website and click on the secure

Virgin Money Giving link

www.veteransincommunities.org/donate.html

RIBBLE VALLEY

Outreach Service

TUESDAYS

VIC – 01706 833180

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Outdoor Activities Co-ordinator Ivy Limbrick

ivylimbrick@vic.org.uk

Sessional Worker Bernard Tighe

bernardtighe@vic.org.uk

VIC Choir Bookings Barry Hyde

barryhyde@vic.org.uk

Contacts

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@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.bafc4v.org

01204 776628

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by:



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