



Jennifer Shilliday



Lest we forget

RESTRICTIONS impacted on a number of Remembrance services around the VIC area, but we were able to meet at Haslingden's Memorial Gardens on Armistice Day.

A short service was led by VIC Administrator Amy Thompson, who is also volunteer secretary of the Haslingden branch of The Royal British Legion. Chief Executive Amanda Walton laid a wreath

on behalf of VIC.

The Last Post was played, Operations Manager Bob Elliott lowered the Union Flag and two minutes' silence was observed.

VIC donated two large First World War silhouette soldiers which stand guard over the memorial at Greenfield Gardens during Remembrance and Armistice.

The service was attended by many members of VIC, local police and even lorry drivers parked up their wagons and joined the service to

pay respects.

Project Worker Ray Sharkey lowered the flag on Remembrance Sunday.

Thank you to Rossendale Council for providing two new Union Flags for the Haslingden flagpole. One will fly all year round and one will be kept for special occasions.

A short Remembrance service was also held at the cenotaph in Bacup Cemetery led by VIC member Bill

Ogden.

Also in attendance were Mick Armstrong and Tracy Keir.

Tracy said: "We were going to get a wreath from The Royal British Legion, but as parades have been cancelled they were not available.

"My friend Jan Meadowcroft suggested contacting Kate Lea, who works for Rolands Florists, as she had been

making ribbon wreaths. She agreed to make a larger version and donated it to local veterans."

Bill said: "Ever since VIC carried out Project 100 to mark the graves and remembrance stones to First World War soldiers in the cemetery, we have held a special service on the Friday before Remembrance Sunday.

Shopping online? Help VIC

IF YOU use the Internet for shopping, don't forget you could also help to raise money for VIC at the same time.

Please register with Easy Fundraising and nominate VIC as your charity of choice.

Then, when you are making an online purchase, if the site you are purchasing from is linked to Easy Fundraising, you will be notified that your purchase can

also provide a donation to charity.

Just a few clicks later, as well as purchasing the goods or service, the vendor will provide a donation to VIC, at no additional cost to yourself.

We have just received £68.49 from Easy Fundraising – thank you to everyone for shopping online and signing up to donate.

To sign up simply logon to www.easyfundraising.org.uk



Christmas hamper appeal



WE ARE collecting items to make up Christmas hampers for vulnerable veterans and their families.

Donations of dried food, biscuits and Christmas treats can be left at the VIC Centre.

Thank you to Sam Smith for calling into the centre to drop off hand-made Christmas cards for our members.

These cards will be added to each food hamper. We are very grateful for all donations received.



Preserving military history for all

A VISIT was made to the Veterans Living History Museum in Blackburn, which now has its own building.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "We can remember when they joined us at some of the community shows just a few years ago. Then they had all the military display exhibits on a table and transported

everything in the boot of the car.

"They now have an amazing building in Blackburn that they are converting into a static display and drop-in for veterans.

"They have worked really hard over the last few years to get to where they are now and it has been an outstanding



effort.

"We are looking forward to working with the Veterans Living History Museum in the future and we wish them every success."

Art comp out for judging

JUDGES now have the difficult job of assessing all the entries in our first Veterans' Arts Competition.

In the painting category 19 entries have been received along with 20 photographs, five submissions in the creative writing, four sculptures and five entries in the special lockdown group.

The winners will be announced on Friday December 18 and so will be an early Christmas present.

Thank you to everyone who has entered the competition.

Happy Birthday Lewis



THE arrival of the Veterans Living History Museum was the highlight for the 98th birthday celebrations for D-Day veteran Lewis Banham.

Lewis was a despatch rider in the Second World War and has been honoured in France and Holland for his part in liberating the countries.

VIC member Bill Ogden organised the celebration.

Lewis said: "It has been fantastic; a birthday I will long remember. You are all welcome to my 100th."

Co-op cash

AN AMAZING £2,765.43 has been donated to VIC by the Co-op Local Community Fund.

The money will enable activities at VIC's Hyndburn shop and drop-in to continue.

Donation

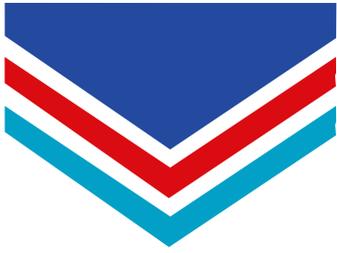
A BIG thank you to jewellery maker Gill Currie who donated £40 to VIC as a result of sales of her products throughout the month of October.

Gill sells her jewellery through a Facebook group called Serendipity.

Quiz plans

IN THE New Year we are planning to hold a virtual quiz in place of our popular curry and quiz, which this year could not go ahead.

More information will be in our December newsletter.



Silhouette soldiers raise £1k

SILHOUETTE soldiers and pyrography window hangings specially created for Remembrance helped

raise more than £1,000.
VIC members created the memorial tributes, which sold out quickly.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "In total 55 pyrography wall hangings were made, 40 window statues of different sizes and three larger garden silhouette statues.

"They were a huge success so we will be going into production much earlier next year in order to meet the demand."

Veteran Brian McEvoy designed and created the pyrography and Sessional Worker Bernard Tighe, who runs Veterans In Production, led the manufacture of the silhouette statues; they were helped by Emma Jane Petherbridge, Ray Sharkey and Joe Davis.

A donation was also made to The Royal British Legion.



Santa helps raise profile

WATCH out for Sergeant Santa and his troop of Elves coming to Tesco in Rawtenstall next month.

As this year has been a tricky one for fund-raising, with events being cancelled and restrictions on numbers allowed to meet, VIC has not been able to raise the amount it usually would and there has not been VIC Choir performances and there has been limited sales of arts and crafts items.

On Saturday December 12 and 19 we are planning to raise awareness and funds by parking the VIC crew van at Tesco when Santa and his Elves will be chatting to shoppers about the work we do.

Music will also be played and it will hopefully include songs sung by the VIC Choir.

Homes for veterans

VULNERABLE veterans are being offered accommodation at a new development in Middleton.

The Limes is a development of nine one-bedroom flats close to the town centre.

Myspace Housing Solutions is accepting referrals from veterans aged over 18, with a vulnerability, with or without children. They must be in receipt of a long-term benefit, without job seeking obligations, and must require tenancy-related support.

For more information contact Partnership Development Officer Eric Rule on 07776 485 744.

Tech helps vets stay in touch

WE CURRENTLY have 25 tablets out on loan to veterans across our outreach areas thanks to Veterans Should Not Be Forgotten – an Armed Forces Covenant grant.

When government restrictions allowed, we held IT training sessions in person at the centre and also at The Sandbag Cafe. We have also now set up Zoom groups.

Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth supports members in Pendle and Rochdale and Project Worker Bev Fowler looks after those in Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale. Philip Chamberlain is responsible for Burnley and Project Worker Ray Sharkey looks after Hyndburn, Ribble Valley and Rossendale.

Group Zoom meetings are being held in the areas so that contact can be maintained



over lockdown and whatever tier restrictions are introduced in December.

Ray said: "The purpose of these meetings is to have some interaction hopefully on a weekly basis where we have some form of face-to-face contact with each other, be that just for a laugh, a virtual breakfast club or anything welfare related."

VIC managed to get a computer class started at Heywood's The Sandbag Café, before the second lockdown and, as soon as permitted, further invitation-only sessions will be held.

Anyone struggling to access the technology, wanting a tablet or in need of some tuition can contact 01706 833180.

What's On and Where



ROSSENDALE

NOTE COVID CHANGES TO ACTIVITIES

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Outreach Service

MONDAY-FRIDAY

9am-4.30pm

VIC Centre, Bury Road, Haslingden, BB4 5PL.

Call 01706 833180

TUESDAY

ON ZOOM

Art Group

12.30pm

WEDNESDAY

ON LOCATION

Allotment

Help on the allotment in Holcombe Road, Helmshore. Contact 01706 833180

THURSDAY

STILL SUSPENDED

VIC Choir

6.30-8.30pm

FRIDAY

ON ZOOM

Art Group

12.30pm

EVERY MONTH

ON ZOOM

Painting in the Style of Bob Ross art classes

Contact Darren 01706 833180

ON LOCATION

Walking Group

Restricted numbers see Facebook or website for details.

BY INVITATION ONLY

Rossendale Armed Forces and Veterans' Breakfast Club

Haslingden Community Link

9.30am-11.30pm

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

BURNLEY AND PENDLE

Outreach Service

TUESDAY - alternate weeks

Breakfast Club at Burnley FC in the Community Centre, 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.

SUSPENDED

HEYWOOD, MIDDLETON AND ROCHDALE

BY INVITATION ONLY

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 Cafe and drop in

1pm-2.30pm

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

THURSDAY

BY INVITATION ONLY

9am-10.30am Rochdale Breakfast Club

Rochdale Town Hall Bistro OL16 1AB.

10.30am-noon

VIC Outreach

1 Riverside, Rochdale OL16 1UB.

SUSPENDED

HYNDBURN

FRIDAY

Outreach Service

10.30am-3pm

VIC Shop, Accrington Arndale Centre, BB5 1PL.

RIBBLE VALLEY

Outreach Service

TUESDAYS

SUSPENDED

VIC – 01706 833180

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Volunteer Support Worker Mel Fitzgerald

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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

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@ssafa.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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by:



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