



Celebration dinner tickets on sale now

WE CAN'T wait to welcome everyone to our amazing celebratory 10th anniversary dinner and entertainment on Friday night September 30.

We are delighted to be able to offer tickets at £15 a head and this includes a buffet meal, entertainment and an after-dinner speech delivered by former World Champion snooker player Steve Davis.

Make sure you book your tickets early as they are going fast.

Thank you to the business sponsors who have already booked tables and we still have corporate tables available at a cost of £500.

Chairman Ronnie Barker said: "Altruistic and philanthropic businesses from all the areas which benefit from the work of VIC are welcome to buy a table at our anniversary dinner and in return you will be helping to subsidise places for veterans and their partners."

Corporate

sponsors will be mentioned in our newsletter as well as being thanked on screens around the Clearly Interiors Longside Lounge at Burnley Football Club.

Entertainment will include singers, a piper and a table-top magician.

Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

To buy tickets, or book a corporate table, contact Administrator Amy Thompson on 01706 833180 or email amythompson@vic.org.uk

Willys Knight takes to the road

VETERAN Bob Brindley steered our entry in the Amazing Accrington Soapbox Challenge and was cheered on by VIC members and piper Steve Sumner, who although not a veteran, has played in many bands for more than 50 years.

Bob said: "When I went over the jumps my helmet slipped down over my eyes so I couldn't see where I was going. Then when we got to the finish I heard something snap and we stopped."

Videos on our Facebook group show Bob pushing the cart over the line.

He added: "It was a bit of a boneshaker, but it was solid and safe."

Veterans Dave Joddrell and Dave Green along with Joe Davis and other VIC members



helped to make our soapbox entry and they also made one for Accrington Army Cadet Force, where VIC member Phil Speddy is a leader.

The cadets succeeded in making it through to the fastest 10, but 'Chicken Run', an entry by Emerson and Renwick, won.



Supporting 'in bloom'

WE WERE delighted to support Rossendale Civic Pride's bid to be awarded a 'Britain in Bloom' title for Rawtenstall.

As reported in our July newsletter, Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth designed and created a pictorial flowerbed to represent the 40th anniversary of the Falkland Islands and the 10th anniversary of VIC.

At Sparrow Park, he mapped out and planted the islands, added a large 40, the VIC logo, initials and a 10 for our anniversary.

We also offered help to our friends at Positive Start, and our trustee Jo Shakeel, to spruce up the community building in Rawtenstall ahead of judging.



As it was 'in bloom', naturally buildings were decorated on a green theme. At Positive Start, green paint now replaces the original drab grey exterior.

Thanks to Ray, Joe and Phil for painting the shop and Bob and Jo for sanding it down.





Veteran Gordon Aaron enjoyed a fabulous 87th birthday at The Sandbag Cafe in Heywood.



Middleton Mess Tin meet up



Cakes are a tasty treat for veterans

CRACKING cakes, scrumptious samosas and perfect pies all added up to a delicious stall at Irwell Medical Practice in Bacup raising money for VIC.

The stall was organised by Administrative Lead Natalie White and Administrative Clerk Natasha Millar. Staff and members of the practice's Patient Participation Group (PPG) stepped up to bake and make.

Natalie said: "We did a cake sale a while back, pre-Covid, and now Covid is quiet here, we decided to arrange for another one. We had help from Chair of the PPG Margaret Talukdar and members of the group and we wanted to raise money for a local charity."

Margaret suggested VIC and Operations Manager Bob Elliott came along to support the event.

Natalie added: "Holding this event is a morale booster for patients and we do like to get the community involved in the practice. Covid impacted everything for so long, it is great to show people that we are still a part of our community and



hopefully events like this can continue to be held."

The cakes and bakes raised £271.50.

Bob said: "We are very grateful to Irwell Medical Practice for thinking of us and the money raised will be put to good use.

"The cakes were amazing, outstanding, and they went very quickly. We cannot thank them enough."

Woollen poppies will lead way to war graves

KNITTERS and crocheters are busy making poppies for a Remembrance project in Stubbins that will raise money for VIC.

Members of the Crafty Chatters knitting Group visited the private church gardens in Stubbins.

Lavinia Todd, who looks after the gardens, is opening them for charity on Sunday November 6 and Monday November 14 from 1pm onwards.

Ivy Limbrick said: "The poppies will be used to decorate the gardens and paths leading to graves of soldiers who were killed in action during the First and Second World Wars."

"She also asked whether we could put the Church Yard Fairy Story onto wood as the laminated paper ones do not last."

She has asked for some help from VIC; staff and volunteers will be there with our gazebo, leaflets and items to sell on a stall.

A Remembrance Book will be open at nearby St Philip's Church for people to leave messages.

Clean out

VOLUNTEERS from VIC were happy to assist clearing out the former Village Pine premises in The Glen, Newchurch Road, Stacksteads, ahead of its redevelopment.

The premises is going to be transformed into 24 flats and the new owners offered VIC and charity Community Solutions the chance to clear any items out of the premises that could either be of use or sold to aid the organisations.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "We were able to salvage some wood, tables and external doors."

Appeal

AN APPEAL for medicine grip balls is being made by VIC member Phil Speddy who is planning a couple of fundraisers in the next couple of months, one of which will benefit VIC.

Anyone who can help, can call the centre on 01706 833180.

Sundays

OUR Sunday openings between 10.15am and 12.30pm are being well supported. If you wish to call in for a brew and a natter at the VIC Centre you will be made most welcome.

Tombola

IF YOU have any unwanted gifts or items in very good condition, we would be very grateful for donations for tombolas which we will be holding.

Please leave donations at the VIC Centre, Bury Road, Haslingden.



Trips and visits



VETERANS from VIC joined forces with Burnley Football in the Community for a visit to the Army Royal Military College in Harrogate.

As well as witnessing the final dress rehearsal for the recruits Passing Out Parade, they also heard Commanding Officer Simon Farebrother deliver a briefing to cadets and veterans explaining how the British Army was evolving to ensure all recruits got the best experience possible.

This included providing female recruits with sports bras and sanitary products to

ensure that all needs were met.

Many of the Army's future NCOs have passed through Harrogate and he explained that 65 per cent of Class 1 and Class 2 Warrant Officers started their careers at the foundation college.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "It was a very hot day and the recruits put on a great parade; you could see the pride in them all as they passed the Commanding Officer on the Saluting Dais.

"Everyone who attended had a great time and are intent on going back next year – a good day out for all."

VIC members attended the Trawden Show, a family fun day at Thompson Park and on September 3 the crew van, staff and volunteers will be at Preston Military Show.

On September 13 VIC will be having a stand at Selnet's (Social Enterprise Lancashire Network) Social Business Expo at Blackburn Cathedral.

Warpers Trail

A NINE-mile walk along the Warperts Trail walk from The Jumbles Reservoir was enjoyed by all.

Veteran Peter Shinzel said: "Thank you to walk organiser Ivy Limbrick as the route showcased what amazing scenery we have locally and to finish the day off we enjoyed Linda Field's

special cake. It was an awesome day."

Art website

VETERAN Brian McEvoy has launched his website www.geniusartistry.co.uk

VIC member Brian, ran our Pyrography Group and a lot of his work has been sold to members of public via online sites and through VIC Accrington raising money for VIC.

Future social inclusion trips out include:

- September 1 The Royal Armouries, Leeds,
- October 6 Queen Street Textile Museum, Burnley,
- October 27 the National Arboretum in Staffordshire.

MEMBERS enjoyed a lovely trip over to The Mill Cafe at St Catherine's Hospice, Lostock Hall.

Social Inclusion Activities Volunteer Pat McEvoy said: "The food was delicious and the cakes were out of this world. Phil Chamberlain was our driver and he brought his lovely wife Jayne.

"We all want to thank Phil and Jayne for paying for the whole meal and drinks. Then the rest of us donated money to the St Catherine's Hospice. It was a fantastic gesture and fabulous for the hospice funds.

After the meal the party visited the hospice charity shop.

She added: "Everyone wants another trip booking for a meal. Phil said he would gladly drive, but may not be so generous as to pay for the food again."



A FAMILY fun day was held at Burnley Football in the Community's outdoor adventure centre Whitehough in Pendle.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott along with Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell attended and used a drone and a Go-Pro camera to capture videos.

Using the skills acquired through a special project with Anglian Ruskin University, the footage will be edited into a short film for BFiTc to use to promote the centre in Barley.

Birthday gifts

VIC had a special mouse mat with a cap badge made to celebrate the birthday of friend of VIC 'Big Ronnie'.

Ronnie, who used to live in Kemple View in the Ribble Valley, is now in Dewsbury, but managed to call in and visit his pals at VIC.

Pat McEvoy organised a birthday card and got all of Ronnie's friends to sign it and her son veteran Brian made a box for his tobacco with words burnt into it.

Op Courage

ANYONE who has used the Transition, Intervention and Liaison Service (TILS), MVS or Op Courage is asked to share their experience so the services can be improved.

Please pass on feedback to our outreach team and we will pass it on, pop into the VIC Centre or call 01706 833180.

To contact Op Courage, the free mental health service for veterans, their families or carers, call 0303 123 1145. Alternatively, contact Cath Mitton, VIC's Veteran Mental Health Caseworker.

Marshalling

VIC will again be supporting the Rossendale Hospice Sabre Challenge.

On Sunday October 9, we will be manning a road crossing point in Stacksteads and supervising challenges for the entrants when they return to Rawtenstall Cricket Club.

Any volunteers who can help on the day should contact VIC 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

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

(PILOT PROJECT)

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 Group/ Social Inclusion trips

see Facebook or website for details

10am-noon

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

BURNLEY AND PENDLE

Outreach Service

MONDAY

Breakfast Club at Burnley Miners Social Club, 27a Plumbe Street, Burnley, BB11 3AA. 10am-noon

Contact 01706 833180 for dates of outreach at: Burnley Football in the Community; Pendle Armed Forces Support Group, Holmefield House, Gisburn Road, Barrowford; 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

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-10.30am Touchstones Cafe, The Esplanade OL16 1AQ.

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

Rovers Breakfast Hub, Legends Lounge, Darwen End, Blackburn Rovers FC, Ewood Park, Blackburn, BB2 4JF. 10.30am-noon

Want to help?

To donate to support the work of VIC please visit our website

www.veteransincommunities.org

RIBBLE VALLEY

Coffee Morning and Outreach

TUESDAYS

VIC – 01706 833180

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Transformational Coach Gill Hughes

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Volunteer Support Worker Mel Fitzgerald

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Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell

darrenhorsnell@vic.org.uk

Veterans Mental Health Caseworker Cath Mitton

cathmitton@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

Citizens' Advice Rossendale and Hyndburn

0808 278 7975 freephone Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

The Samaritans

01282 694929

Mon to Fri 9am-9pm

Freephone 116 123

Op Courage

0800 652 2867 seek a referral through a GP or health professional

Veterans UK Free Helpline

0808 1914 218

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

01282 657116


Armed Forces Support Group

01282 613132

Veterans In Communities Charity Number 1151194

VIC supported

by:

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Clinical Commissioning Group




 Rossendale *alive*
BOROUGH COUNCIL

 Borough of
Pendle

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