



# VIC Newsletter

## Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

### New Year – new job

VIC is delighted to announce there is a vacancy for a new member of staff.

In the New Year we will be appointing a Community Capacity Builder funded through the new Veterans' Places, Pathways & People (VPPP) 'Thrive Together Programme'.

As part of the sustainability and legacy development in the first iteration of VPPP, the Forces Wellbeing Collective was launched as a network of professionals, volunteers and cross-sector organisations joining forces to improve the wellbeing of the Armed

Forces community in the North West.

Armed Forces Community Hub HQ CIC will continue to coordinate and develop the regional network as the primary mechanism to implement the 'Thrive Together Programme' North West's strategic goals.

It will also work with key partners to implement additional resources focusing on community capacity building that will ensure lasting impact for service users and sustainability for the wider sector.

This new role will be 30 hours per week - flexible in accordance

with the needs of the post.

The new employee will be based at the VIC Centre in Haslingden but must also be able to travel across Lancashire.

The salary is £20,000 and it will be a fixed term contract for 18 months.

Interviews will be held at the start of January and the successful applicant must be able to start as soon as possible in January 2025. The application will close at 4pm on December 24.

Please contact Administrator Amy Thompson on 01706 833180 or email amythompson@vic.org.uk for an application pack.

### Open all hours

**THROUGHOUT the Christmas and New Year period, VIC will keep its centre open for anyone wanting to use the facilities.**

Holidays can always be a tricky time for veterans, especially if they are apart from their family and relations.

Between Christmas and New Year – the centre will be open from Thursday December 26 until Tuesday December 31 from 10am to 3pm.

Normal operational hours will then resume.

### Craft stall for VIC

**MEMBERS of the Crafty Chatters set up stall inside Bacup's Morrisons and sold knitted and crochet craft items.**

Sales of woolen items raised £85 and donations totalled £30.37.

### Barge trip, lunch and Christmas markets



**NINE members of VIC joined members of La Latte Lounge on a day trip to Skipton, which included a Christmas meal on a narrowboat and a tour of the Christmas markets in the North Yorkshire town.**

Thank you to La Latte Lounge in Rawtenstall for the kind invitation.

● ANY veterans who are wanting somewhere to go for food on Christmas Day are invited to a free Christmas dinner La Latte Lounge in Rawtenstall.

The venue, on Bank Street, is open on Wednesday December 25 from noon to 3pm when there will be free Christmas vegetable soup, turkey and stuffing sandwiches and mince pies.



# Christmas lunch 2024

**WE HAD 50 VIC members and supporters attend the Christmas lunch at the Grand Royal Bistro and Bar in Waterfoot.**

Thanks again to Crafty Chatter Chris Smethurst for creating the amazing hamper raffle prize which raised £321.10 for VIC and was won by Laura Saxton from Asda. Thanks to Administrator Amy Thompson for organising.



## Carols and collections

**HO HO HO. The first Christmas performance of the 2024 Festive Season for the VIC Choir was at Tesco Haslingden.**

Thanks to Community Champion Wendy Howarth for organising and generous donations from customers and staff £276.08 was collected.

Veteran collector was VIC Volunteer Arts and Crafts



Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell.

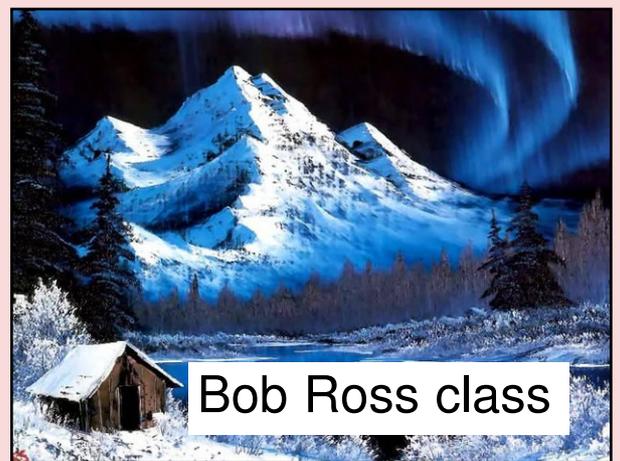
The second performance was at Asda, Rawtenstall. Thanks to Laura Saxton, ASDA Rawtenstall Community Champion for hosting the choir.

A special thank you to Pria who gave up her Saturday to

support her Grandma Glenice and we raised £218.03, it was very much appreciated.

The final VIC Choir performance for 2024 is at Tesco Rawtenstall on Saturday December 21.

Thank you to the Rossendale public for their support over the festive season for VIC.



## Bob Ross class

**THE final painting in the style of Bob Ross for 2024 will be held on Monday December 30 from 10.30am to mid-afternoon when**

**this stunning painting will be created.**

The class costs £45 and for more information, and to book places, call 01706 833180.



# Hampers of Christmas cheer



## TV carols

**IT WAS an honour for VIC to be selected by ITV to take part in a special carol service.**

Not only did a film crew visit the VIC Centre in Haslingden to film the art group and find out more about the charity, we were given the VIP treatment at the Carol Service at St Elisabeth's Church, Stockport, and Volunteer Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell gave the reading at the service.

Several professional choirs attended the church to sing carols and three organisations were selected to feature. The service will be screened on Christmas Eve on ITV. We will have more information and photos in next month's newsletter.

## Hep-C Clinic

**THE car park adjacent to the VIC Centre was used as a base for a mobile health screening van provided by Lancashire and South Cumbria Trust for a mobile screening clinic.**

As part of our work within the community, VIC was happy to assist the siting of the diagnostic van so residents and veterans could take part in the simple antibody test to screen for Hepatitis C and test liver function.

**WE WILL be distributing Christmas Hampers to those veterans in need, as we always do at this time of year.**

Any non-perishable goods, tins, chocolates, biscuits or dried goods, are appreciated, please donate to the VIC Centre on 12 Bury Rd, Haslingden, Rossendale, BB4 5PL or call the office on 01706 833180.

The hampers bring Christmas cheer to veterans across our areas of benefit.

Although based in Haslingden, VIC works throughout East Lancashire, Ribble Valley and parts of Greater Manchester and co-organises a coffee morning in Preston.

Thank you to everyone who has already donated – especially the personal donation from Kat and Trevor who generously support our hamper appeal every year.

We would also like to thank the residents of Kemple View in Langho and Argos in Hyndburn for the kind donation of cakes and biscuits.

We will have an army of volunteers using their own transport to deliver the hampers.



## Bernard Tighe

**IT IS with much sadness that we have to report the passing of RAF Veteran Bernard Tighe.**

Bernard worked for VIC as a Sessional Worker and ran the Veterans In Production project in 2019/20. He also dressed as 'Santa' while VIC provided the marshaling for the Covid vaccination hub, Rawtenstall, in 2021.

For nearly four years



he was the partner of our Publicity Officer Catherine Smyth, after they met at VIC.

Bernard also leaves his son Norton and daughter Suzi.

He has elected not to have a funeral and instead will have a direct cremation. Our condolences to all.



## Sublime bespoke gifts created by VIC

**VIC Volunteer Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell has completed another order which has been sent to a keen carp angler and organiser of the VIC charity carp angling social events.**

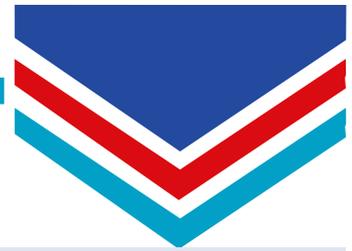
VIC offers many personalised items

including wallets, baubles, mouse mats, coffee mugs and more.

They are great for stocking fillers or just as a present to say thank you.

If anyone would like to know more information on what personalised gift items the sublimation team at VIC can create, call 01706 833180.





## ROSSENDALE

Activities 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

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 Groups/ Social Inclusion trips

see Facebook or website for details

## BURNLEY AND PENDLE

### Outreach Service

**MONDAY**

9.30am- 11.30am

Breakfast Club at Burnley Miners' Social Club, Plumbe Street, Burnley, BB11 3AA.

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

## HEYWOOD, MIDDLETON AND ROCHDALE

### 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 Flying Horse Hotel, Packer Street, Rochdale, OL16 1NJ.

## HYNDBURN

### Outreach / Drop-In/ Model Railway Club

**FRIDAY** 10am-3pm

VIC Hyndburn, Accrington Arndale Centre, BB5 1EX.

### Accrington Stanley Breakfast Club/ Drop-In

**LAST SATURDAY EVERY MONTH**

10.30am-noon

Stanley Sports Hub, Thorneyholme Road, Accrington, BB5 6BD.

## BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN

### Veterans' football

**MONDAY** 8-9pm

Blackburn Rovers Indoor Centre, Ewood Park, Blackburn BB2 4JF. A cost applies.

### Outreach Service

**TUESDAY** 10am-noon

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

Contact Chris McGrail 07787 585109

## RIBBLE VALLEY & PRESTON

**TUESDAYS**

### Redoubt Coffee Morning and Outreach

10am-noon

Trinity Methodist Church, Wesleyan Row,

Parson Lane, Clitheroe, BB7 2JY.

### Sandbag Cafe

10am-12.30pm

St George's Church, off Lune Street, Preston PR1 2NP. This is a joint session with Lancashire Armed Forces Association.

# VIC – 01706 833180

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Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren

Horsnell

darrenhorsnell@vic.org.uk

VIC Choir Bookings Barry Hyde

barryhyde@vic.org.uk

### Veterans at risk of homelessness

or organisations working with them are encouraged to contact OP FORTITUDE

0800 952 0774 or visit [riv.org.uk/opfortitude](http://riv.org.uk/opfortitude)

### 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](mailto:Lancashire@ssafa.org.uk)

01772 260 462

### Citizens Advice East Lancashire

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

### The Samaritans

01282 694929 Mon to Fri 9am-9pm

Freephone 116 123

### Op Courage

0300 373 3332 email

opcourageNORTH@cntw.nhs.uk

### Veterans UK Free Helpline

0808 1914 218

### East Lancashire Single Point of Access via

GP or self-referral

0800 0130 707

### Armed Forces Support Group

01282 613132

Veterans In Communities  
Charity Number 1151194

Want to help?

To support VIC  
scan this QR code



VIC supported by:



**NHS**  
Lancashire and South Cumbria  
Integrated Care Board



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