



VIC Newsletter

Bob Ross held in honour of David

A VERY special painting in the style of Bob Ross class was held at VIC in memory of one of our regular attendees – David Christian.

Volunteer Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell said: "We started the classes in 2012 and David was one of the first to come along.

"He continued with the classes, including when they went online over Zoom during Covid, and he came for quite some time.

"Then he was poorly for quite a few months so I visited him at home because

his daughter Michelle told me how he was depressed and fed up.

"I went to his house and did the painting classes there and had a chat and he started coming back to the VIC Centre. However, age was catching up with him and Michelle told us he had sadly passed away in December."

David loved the energy Bob Ross created and had watched him on TV before attending Darren's classes.

As a result, Darren decided to dedicate

the February class in memory of David.

Michelle said: "My dad started painting with Darren around 10 years ago having first dabbled at home with video tutorials.

"I joined him to keep him company, but soon developed a real interest myself.

"The classes became an important outlet for dad, especially when my mum was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer.

"When she sadly passed away, and lockdown hit, Darren's Zoom lessons were a

lifeline for Dad – recently widowed and living alone.

"Sadly, dementia eventually meant Dad had to stop attending, but I have continued because of the welcoming atmosphere and Darren's fantastic teaching."

She said Darren dedicating the special class meant the world to her.

The subject included mountains, which David loved, and a log cabin. Although he found painting log cabins fiddly, David also told Darren if he

could live anywhere then that would be his place of choice.

Michelle and her daughter Maddy attended the class along with Jane Tandy.

Darren added: "They brought a canvas picture of David, which we put on an easel. It was a tricky painting and the class was very long, but we had a good laugh in The Hide. Michelle has his paintings on her wall, some have been given to his family and some for the wall at VIC."



Step-by-step Bob Ross class in pictures – pages 4 and 5

Sign up for 2025 Battlefields tour

ANYONE wanting to go on the Battlefields Tour planned for September needs to put their name down and pay a £50 deposit.

The trip will visit important military sites in Holland and Belgium to coincide with the VE80 celebrations, as well as visiting Menin Gate for the daily Last Post.

Contact Administrator Amy Thompson on 01706 833180.





Creative Hub



IT HAS been a very busy month for the Creative Hub at VIC with a host of different products being created to order.

Rustic indoor and outdoor plaques have been made using recycled wood and laser etching, wooden and slate Lest We Forget coasters are proving popular and a carp fishing buddy of Volunteer Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell ordered 10 personalised pens.

Darren said: "He chose the VIC pens to help with promoting our charity, but you can buy them

singularly or in bulk and personalise your own.

"We are doing a range of items and for more information on prices, including post and packaging if needed, contact me on 01706 833180."

The Creative Hub will also be selling wares and taking orders in Rossendale supermarkets over the next few months.

A stall will be set up at Haslingden Tesco on March 27 and April 24 and another will be at Rawtenstall Tesco on April 5 and 26. A selection of items will be available to



buy and people will also be able order

bespoke items to be personally etched.



Railway backdrop takes shape

A STUNNING scenic backdrop is being created to complement the incredible scale model railway layout of the Glenfinnan Viaduct.

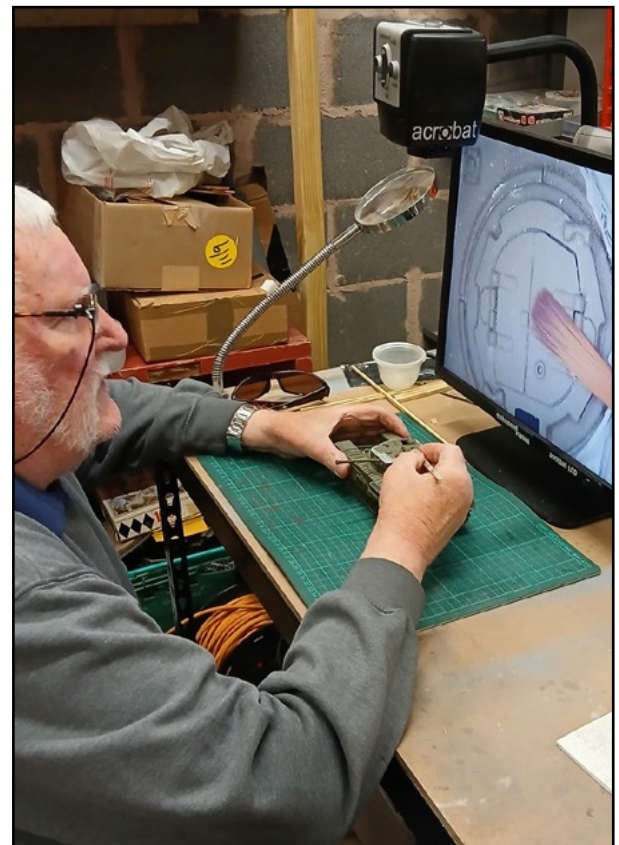
The model railway club uses the basement

at the Accrington Arndale drop in which is where the layout has been painstakingly built.

Volunteer Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell and Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth have started work on the

huge mountain and sky backdrop.

A new piece of tech has also been donated by Blind Veterans to make working on smaller items easier for Lawrence, who is registered with Blind Veterans UK.



A camera now links to a computer screen that can offer the user

an enlarged image of the piece of kit they are working on.



Poppies for VE Day

TO COMMEMORATE VE Day on May 8, craft groups in Rossendale knitted and crocheted 80 poppies for the Folkestone Poppy Project.

Beacon Dementia and Wellbeing trustee Janet O'Driscoll asked our own Crafty Chatters to help to make poppies for the project.

The ladies of Folkestone have for some years now created a permanent poppy display for the Road of Remembrance which leads down to the embarkation point to France where soldiers were sent over to fight.

Some of the soldiers were involved in the Battle of the Somme, which is where Janet's great grandfather was fatally injured on the first day - 1st July 1916.

He was left on the battlefield for some days, but died



later of his injuries.

VIC Crafty Chatters, Knits at Fitz and the Beacon Wellbeing Group created the 80 poppies.

Last month, VIC Crafty Chatters were visited by Healthwatch Lancashire Engagement Team Leader Steve, *right*, who was researching women's health-related issues.

He learnt about the local issues with services and gathered stories from mem-



bers and then held a pop-up shop at Irwell Medical Practice, Bacup.



Fabulous high-quality embroidered patches are available at the VIC Centre prices £6.50 or £8 with post and packaging.

Squadron Bar

IT WILL be all change at the VIC Accrington drop-in as the large room at the front will become a base for the art group.

A rear more comfortable room will now become 'The Squadron Bar' offering veterans a relaxing place to drop-in for a brew and banter.

The building, in Accrington Arndale, is open every Friday from 10am to 3pm. Anyone wanting to know more can contact Project Worker Ray Sharkey on 01706 833180.

Fundraising

SHOPPERS who spend money online can also help VIC, for no extra cost.

Simply join Easyfundraising and VIC East Lancs will benefit every time you shop in more than 8,000 outlets.

To sign up for free visit <https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk>



Our Redoubt Clitheroe coffee morning and quiz is proving extremely popular. Held in the community room of Trinity Methodist Church every Tuesday from 10am to noon, it is always well attended with lots of banter.



Blind vets

OUR friends at La Latte Lounge in Rawtenstall have a coffee meet up with Blind Veterans UK on the third Thursday of every month at 1c Bank Street.

Blind Veterans UK offers support with day-to-day living, rehabilitation, practical advice and emotional support for life and expert staff will help veterans adjust to life with a visual impairment.

Hearing loss

VETERANS who have service-induced hearing loss can get assistance from Veterans for Veterans.

The group of armed forces veterans has met up with VIC members several times over the last four months. They assist fellow service personnel to claim compensation for noise-induced hearing loss and tinnitus injuries where adequate hearing protection was not provided by the Ministry of Defence.



Bob Ross step-by-step



Everyone starts with a blank canvas

SIX painters took to the easels at the VIC Centre in January to create their own masterpieces.

Led by Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell, Phil Chamberlain, Ian Loughlin, Geoff Pogson, Jane Tandy, Michelle Entwistle and Lesley Barlow all created very individual works of art.



"I enjoy the experience of being led by someone who knows what they are talking about." Geoff

"With Darren's intervention, the class is a bit more free. This gives me relaxation and a little bit of me time." Ian

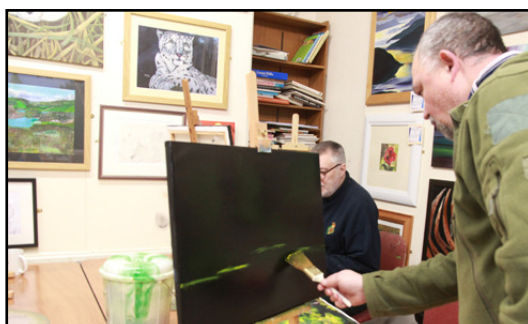


Criss crossing liquid clear



Centre line and shading for trees

"I enjoy the classes and love Darren to bits. During Covid, because I didn't have any paints, he brought a set round to me and so I made sure I kept them out of the grandkids way and my husband was happy as well." Jane

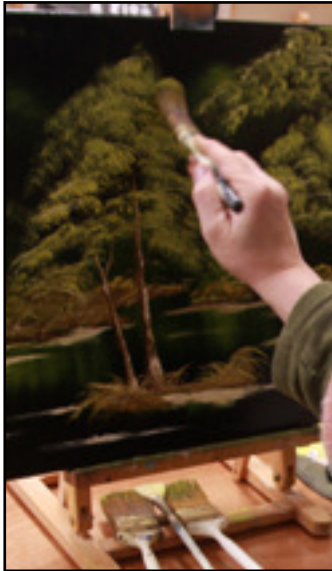




"I am here because I have got to start doing some things for me and maybe I will now use the paints I have at home." Phil



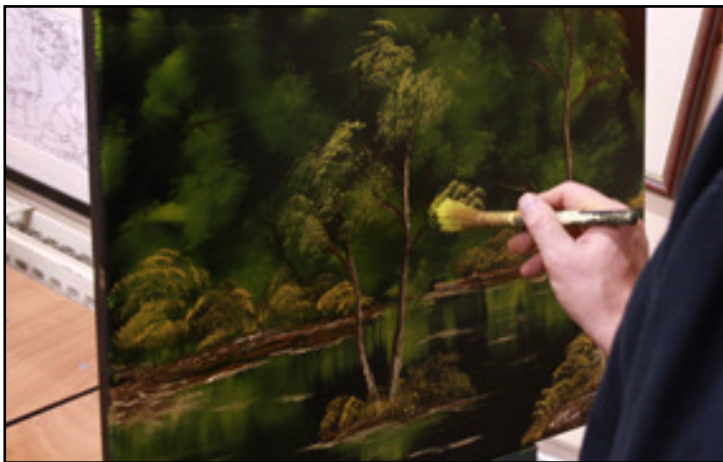
"I enjoy the Bob Ross classes because it is therapeutic and I spend time with really great friendly people. "For me, I can enjoy the painting and forget my cares. It is not so much about what painting is being done but when I can afford to attend." Michelle

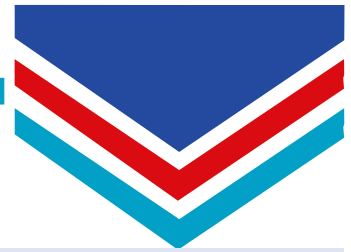


"I started coming because I love to paint and this is very sociable and I get to be with my friends. My husband came with me for about three years and I now have six paintings on the wall of my conservatory and I rotate them." Lesley



"This is not just beneficial for the class; it is beneficial for me too. I love it. Everyone who has taken part has created a unique and original painting and a lot of the people here have been coming to the class for many years." Darren





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

10am-noon

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

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

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

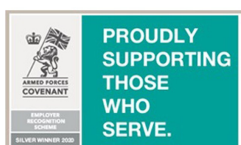
Veterans In Communities
Charity Number 1151194

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