



# VIC Newsletter

## Film premiere at Alder Grange

**RETURN, Belong Prosper – the VIC documentary short film was premiered at AG6 in Rossendale and then seen in Preston by delegates at a regional conference.**

The film, follows the story of three members of VIC and the difficulties they faced when transitioning from military to civilian life and how art has helped them.

Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth, ex-Navy, along with Army veterans Dave Jodrell and Volunteer Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell, speak openly in the film that they co-directed with researchers from Anglian Ruskin University.

At AG6, Mayors from Rossendale, Accrington and Burnley were in attendance, along with Armed Forces Champions, Military veterans, police officers and civilians.

Chief Executive Amanda Walton said: "I would like to say thank you to the staff at Alder Grange, the students



and cadet force members; what they did for us was phenomenal. I hope everyone who attended enjoyed it."

The attendees were entertained by the VIC Choir and refreshments were provided by the school. The film was shown in the lecture theatre and a question-and-answer session followed with Steve, Darren and Dave, members of the VIC and team and Dr

Nick Caddick, the Principal Investigator from Anglia Ruskin University.

Police Inspector Jim Jones was also present, the Greater Manchester Police Force's Tactical Lead for the Armed Forces Covenant. He was awarded the British Empire Medal in 2022 for services to policing and the Armed Forces.

Also present was former policeman Russ Magnall, from Safe and Sound Training and Coaching.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "We got excellent feedback from people who watched the film."

At Westleigh Conference Centre, Preston, the film got a further public viewing before around 150 delegates at the Lancashire and South Cumbria Armed Forces Conference organised by

the University of Central

Lancashire.

Bob said: "The event was split into different sessions, firstly about the Armed Forces Covenant then education where we heard from researchers and students carrying out research projects.

"Health and housing was discussed in the afternoon and VIC featured within health. We showed the film and Amanda gave a presentation along with Dr Nick Caddick.

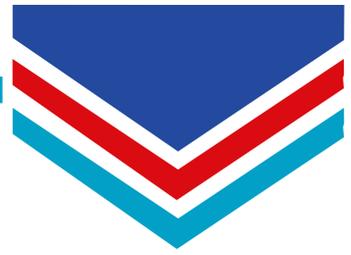
"When the film was shown, you could have heard a pin drop as everyone was silent and many people came up to us afterwards and said how good it was."

As the film progresses, a mural is being created in the background, and it is only complete once the film finishes, the last touches are made to the mural; which is on a back wall in the art room at the VIC Centre.

Amanda said: "When we finished I had lots of delegates coming up to me to say how good the film was and that it showed the excellent work being carried out by VIC and the difference that it is making to the lives of veterans."

Bob and Amanda said they particularly enjoyed a presentation by the British Thoroughbred Retraining Centre at Whinney Hill Farm CIC, Lancaster.





# Wheely great

**AFTER** serving VIC well since 2014, our original minibus has now been replaced by a fantastic new model again provided by David Fishwick Minibus Sales in Colne.

The bus has been adapted for practical use for VIC by David Fishwick's and liveried with logos and slogans.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "We picked up our new VIC minibus from Fishwick's. As they supplied our last one, it was it was no brainer for us to go back again.

"As with the last one, it has had similar modifications; an awning, tow hook, rear seats removed for an enclosed rear storage section and fittings to put the flags up for shows and events."

As the charity knew the original minibus would need replacing, money has been set aside



each year.

Bob said: "Although it's been reliable and a good old workhorse, it was time to replace it for something newer and more comfortable for the social trips we arrange for our members and when we go out to events."

The day after VIC took delivery, the bus was taking veterans on a social outing to Sablesbury Hall.

It will also be used for the VIC VE-Day 80 French tour in September.

- The original minibus has been bought by a member who will be converting it into a camper van.



## Road trip forges links

**A TOUR** of other organisations involved in the delivery of the VPPP, Veterans Places, Pathways and People, was made by Chief Executive Amanda Walton and Operations Manager Bob Elliott.

They toured Warrington and Liverpool to visit the Veterans Support Centre, Warrington, and Tom Harrison House and Veterans HQ, both in Liverpool.

Bob said: "Although we have all been involved in the VPPP

programme it was great to visit their hubs and see the outstanding work they do to support veterans and their families.

"All of us offer something different but also very similar and we operate within our local communities."

Bob added some of the charities operated from much smaller premises than VIC. This made us appreciate how fortunate VIC was to have the spacious building in Haslingden.



Film premiere



Asda



Jubilee Court

## Choir's trio of performances

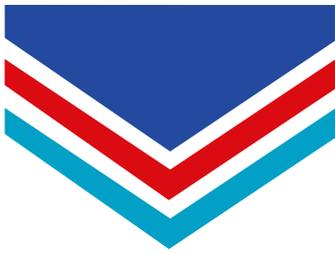
**CHOIR** members performed three times during April, at Asda Rawtenstall, Jubilee Court in Haslingden and at the premiere of the VIC film.

At Asda £359.18 was collected, thanks to Community Champion Laura Saxton, staff and customers and Barnsey, Jacko Pearce

and Chief Executive Amanda Walton for helping with collections

For St George's Day, the choir entertained the residents of Jubilee Court, Haslingden. Thank you for the support and donations

The choir will next be performing on Saturday May 18 at Tesco in Rawtenstall from 1pm; collectors wanted.



# VIC on the road

**MEMBERS of VIC are getting out and about with a plethora of trips planned.**

Our new minibus was used to take members to Samesbury Hall where they enjoyed lunch in the Heritage Café before walking around the Tudor Hall.

On **Saturday May 11**, the minibus will leave the VIC Centre at 11.30am for a trip to Billy Bob's Parlour and lunch.

The Americian diner and ice cream parlour is based on the A59 near Bolton Abbey and the VIC Riders will be meeting the minibus at about 1pm at the diner.

The cost is £5 for those going on the minibus, lunch is extra.

Further trips:

**Wednesday May 22** – Jewish Museum in Manchester, contact VIC on 01706 833180 for more details.

**Monday June 3** – Runway



Visitor Park, Manchester Airport, see retired planes including Concorde, RAF Nimrod, DC10, Acro RjX and Trident airliner, café available, contact VIC on 01706 833180 for more details.

**Monday July 1** – Mersey Rover Cruise, £22.

**Wednesday July 17** – Hot

Ice Show, Blackpool, £22.

**Wednesday July 31** – Embsay Steam Train, first class return with fish and chips, pre-meal Prosecco and shed tour, £40.

Thank you to Volunteer Social Inclusion Co-ordinator Pat McEvoy, who is now back from her Florida sabbatical.

## VE-Day

**VETERANS are invited to a free VE-Day event in Greenfield Memorial Gardens, Haslingden on Saturday May 4 from noon to 2pm.**

Attendees are asked to bring a picnic blanket, enjoy entertainment from the VIC Choir, Rossendale Drum Majorettes and The Old Time Entertainment Company and there will be food and refreshments for sale.

The event is organised by National Lottery Heritage Fund, Love Haslingden and Rossendale Borough Council.

## Mentor

**OPPORTUNITIES are available for veterans to become mentors in secondary schools.**

As part of Lancashire County Council's ongoing commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant, ex-armed forces personnel are recruited to become part of the mentoring in schools programme.

They support young people to help improve their performance, behaviour and attendance and to develop skills.

For further information please email: [apprentice.enquiries@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:apprentice.enquiries@lancashire.gov.uk)

## Dioramas

**DIORAMAS depicting D-Day scenes are being made by members of VIC's Model Railway Group, which meets at the Hyndburn Drop-In.**

The scenes will go on public display at Fulwood Barracks in Preston in June.

## Marathon

**CONGRATULATIONS to VIC member Mini Michael Anthony Leather for completing the Manchester Marathon.**

Mini is joining the VIC as a volunteer and is going to be a great asset to our outreach team. He is ex-Kingo and Duke of Lancashire Regiment.

He completed the marathon in around 4 hours 15 minutes, and was running in memory of his mum.



## Bob Ross

**A BUSY weekend of Bob Ross classes saw eight versions of a stunning seascape sunset created.**

Volunteer Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell runs the classes, which are very relaxed.

He said: "I would like to say thanks to all those who turned up for the Bob Ross style painting



classes.

"This was a particularly hard painting but they all pulled it off without too much trouble."

Classes cost £45 with all materials supplied. For future classes contact Administrator Amy Thompson on 01706 833180.



## Last chance for tickets

**ON MONDAY May 6, the winner of this giant oil painting of a rhino will be drawn, so get your ticket bought now.**

VIC Volunteer Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell painted the picture and is raffling it off to raise funds for VIC as a

thank you for the support he has received.

Funds will pay for free arts and crafts sessions including macrame and glass painting.

Tickets cost £2.50 and are available from Administrator Amy Thompson on 01706 833180.

## VIC supports Bay Vets

**VIC members were delighted to show their support to Bay Veterans' Association when they opened their Hub in Morecambe.**

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "We have had several meetings with Gary Kniveton, and he has also visited our centre in Haslingden to see how we operate and the fantastic facilities that we have.

"VIC was invited to the official launch of the Bay Veterans' Association hub and drop-in centre and

there was a great turnout. It is good to see their hard work has come to fruition.



"Bay Veterans' Association is one of the organisations in Lancashire we have been supporting and

Gary has done some amazing work over there."

A weekly breakfast club is held on Wednesdays at the York Hotel in Morecambe and there are other outreaches in Carnforth.

Bob added: "Their model is very similar to VIC and we have been happy to help. It was good to see Gary's efforts are paying off."

VIC will be making another trip over soon and will be arranging a social trip over to the breakfast club in the near future.



## Meal benefits ABF

**A DELICIOUS meal was enjoyed by four VIC members at the award-winning Abdullah's Restaurant in Rising Bridge.**

The event raised more the £300 for the Army Benevolent Fund and was organised by the ABF Lancashire Committee.

In attendance were Administrator Amy Thompson, Volunteer Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell, Fire Brigade veteran John Edwards and Mini Michael Anthony Leather. They all enjoyed a starter and main course and a raffle was held.

## Can you help research?

**RESEARCH teams from universities have contacted VIC to ask members if they want to help in current projects.**

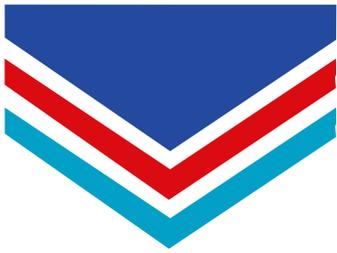
Asanma is from the University of Swansea's research team currently undertaking a Veterans Habit study looking into gambling. Visit [www.vhabit.co.uk](http://www.vhabit.co.uk)

Arianna Paricos from the University of Nottingham is completing a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology looking into the role of self-criticism and self-compassion. Questionnaire link:

<https://unioflincoln.questionpro.eu/t/AB3u1CVZB3vqvqk>



*The VIC Riders went for a nice ride out to Devil's Bridge, Kirkby Lonsdale. They enjoyed lunch, looked at the vast array of other bikes and enjoyed the stunning views.*



# Mural from start to finish



## A GIANT mural now adorns a wall of Tesco Rawtenstall's Community Room.

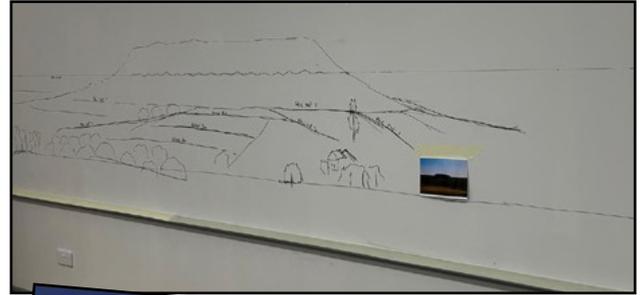
The room, which is available for the community to use, had a very cold blank wall until Volunteer Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell was asked to decorate it.

Having seen the mural that was created in the art room at VIC as part of the Return, Belong, Prosper film, Rawtenstall Tesco Community

Champion Emma Bailey asked VIC if it was possible to paint a scene of Musbury Tor hill, looking from Bury Golf Course, in the Community Room.

Darren started with an outline, and completed the work two weeks' later. It took 26 hours to complete and he spent a couple of hours every day working on it.

Users of the room are already enjoying the artwork.



## Live on the airwaves

CHIEF Executive Amanda Walton and Volunteer Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell took to the airwaves to talk about the issues faced by veterans.

They were the guests of Rossendale Radio's The Valley Today Breakfast Show presenter Ian Green.

*VIC Ribble Valley enjoyed a great turnout of veterans and the craic was as fierce as the inter-unit ribbing that was going on during the weekly quiz. Redoubt meets every Tuesday at Trinity Methodist Church in Clitheroe.*

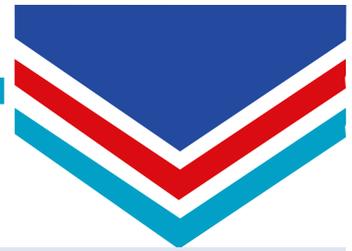
**For more info contact [raysharkey@vic.org.uk](mailto:raysharkey@vic.org.uk) or call 01706 833 180 or 07741 902 188.**

## VIC prison meeting

PROBATION services invited VIC to attend a resettlement market at HMP Preston alongside health and substance misuse charities.

The prison, which houses remand prisoners some of whom are veterans, invited different agencies to attend so prisoners could speak to them should they wish.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said it was likely further opportunities to work with the prison will be happening in the next few months.



## 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

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.

## 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.

## RIBBLE VALLEY & PRESTON

### TUESDAYS

*Redoubt Coffee Morning and Outreach*

10am-noon

Trinity Methodist Church, Wesleyan Row,

## VIC – 01706 833180

Chief Executive Amanda Walton

amandawalton@vic.org.uk

Operations Manager Bob Elliott

bobelliott@vic.org.uk 07961 554 006

Administrator Amy Thompson

amythompson@vic.org.uk

Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth

stevebutterworth@vic.org.uk

Project Worker Ray Sharkey

raysharkey@vic.org.uk 07741 902 188

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



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