



Out and about

VIC members have been out and about on the Mersey Ferry and they also enjoyed the Hot Ice Show in Blackpool.

A full VIC minibus went to Liverpool and then, despite wet weather, the party enjoyed a trip in the Mersey Ferry and a visit to the city.

There was also a great trip to the Hot Ice Show at Blackpool.

Volunteer driver was Phil Chamberlain, the weather was lovely and the show was fantastic.

Phil was very helpful and received a well-deserved round of applause when the minibus arrived back at the VIC Centre.

On July 31 there will be a trip to Emsay Steam Train, near Bolton Abbey. The cost has been revised to £20, which includes a First-Class steam train ride, fish and chips and glass of Prosecco.

The next trip in August will be to the Antony Gormley statues on Crosby Beach.

We are grateful to Pat McEvoy for organising the trips and hope to see her up and about very soon.

For more information on trips contact the VIC Centre on 01706 833180.

In September a party from VIC

will be visiting D-Day sites in Normandy and some First World War battlefields in Northern France.

The final preparations are being made the D-Day 80 trip when 11 members will get to see where the troops landed, pay their respects at the many war cemeteries and then stay near Amiens and visit The Somme area.

The trip will conclude at Menin Gate to hear The Last Post played, which is played every night. In attendance will be Phil Speddy who will be carrying the VIC Standard at Menin Gate.

Also making the journey are Operations Manager Bob Elliott, Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell, Project Worker Ray Sharkey, Volunteers and members Ron Flowers, Paul (Willie) Wilcock and Sam, Aaron Lorimar, Mark King, Bob Brindley and Graham Limb.



Willys jeep rides again

OUR go-kart Willys Jeep will hurtle down a hilly course in Accrington taking on allcomers at the Accrington Soapbox Challenge.

On Saturday August 24, the challenge will return to Accrington Town Centre and VIC is delighted to be entering again with the same driver – Bob Brindley – at the wheel of our vehicle.

The VIC Hyndburn drop-in in the Arndale Centre will also be open on the day.



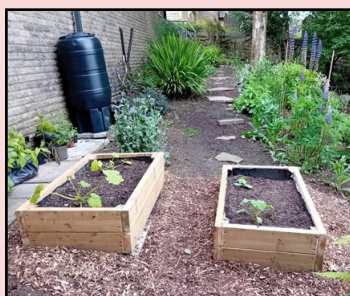
Shed re-roof

MANY hands made light work and our shed is reaping the benefits.

Thanks to help from Paul (Willie) Wilcock, Bob Brindley, Jacko Pearce, Kev Pritchard, and *Bob the dog*, the roof was stripped back, refelted and resealed.

The covered workspace has now been resealed so Veterans In Production can continue recycling wood into various products.

One recent order was some raised beds that have been installed and are in use at St Thomas Church Musbury, Helmshore.





Shop and give

ANYONE who buys online can support the work of VIC by just joining **easyfundraising**.

The free donations VIC receives from online shopping make a real difference to our fundraising efforts.

To find out more, and be in with a chance of winning £50, follow this link <https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/vicestlanacs/io7bsk/s2s/hSjRMfIK/SE849/facebook/>

Trawden Show

A STALL will be held at **Trawden Agricultural Show on Sunday August 11** and anyone who can help to man the stall is asked to contact 01706 833180.

Thanks Steve

A BIG thank you to Steve Foster who has been managing The Mess Tin, in Middleton, while Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth has been helping to launch the new Sandbag Cafe in Preston.

Painting trip

PAINTERS will be able to enjoy a walk and a paint on a trip to Hollingworth Lake, Littleborough, on Friday August 9, leaving the VIC Centre at 10.30am.

Bob Ross

STUNNING and original works of art were created at the latest painting in the style of Bob Ross art class. The classes are held every month, contact 01706 833180 for more information.



Ring of red merch

WE ARE very grateful that Ring of Red M60 has decided to sponsor us as their chosen charity this and in future years, and the latest 2024 merchandise is now available to buy.

This year's ride will be on Remembrance Sunday, November 10, meeting at Birch Services Westbound from 8.30am and thousands of bikers will depart at 1pm to encircle the M60.

The last posting date in order to get mer-

chandise sent out in time for the ride is September 30 and pick-up on the day orders must be made by October 12.

To place your order please contact Mandi Latham-Holmes or Netty Kiely via Facebook

Payments are by bank transfer
Business account:
Ring Of Red M60
Sort Code: 05-02-00
Account No: 29935208
Postage starts from 85p second class.

Forces fun day

A FABULOUS time was had at the **Accrington Stanley's Armed Forces Fun Day** held in July at the Community Sports Hub.

VIC Choir was in attendance and sang and our piper Steve Sumner, also played – his son previously served with in the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards.

Project Worker Ray Sharkey said: "We had the mini bus, a stall giving out information and had lots of people visiting.

"We had some items for sale and the choir and piper were there; it was a great day."



Collector appeal

AN APPEAL is being made for volunteers to help collect money while the VIC Choir is singing.

In return, they can receive a donation towards their own VIC social group or activity.

The VIC choir

performed at Tesco in Burnley in July and, although there was no one free to help with the bucket collections, the singers still raised £193.53.

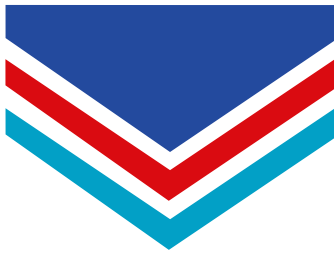
Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "When we are performing in the

different areas, Burnley, Colne or Rossendale, if volunteers from other areas are willing to lend a hand and collect, then we will designate a

percentage of the money raised to support the VIC project in that area."

The choir's next engagement will be in September.





Mark Dilworth

IT IS with great sadness that we have to report the passing of one of the founding members of The Sandbag Cafe Preston Mark Dilworth.

He was formerly of the Wings Centre in Preston passed away in St Catherine's Hospice.

Col David Waters, of Lancashire Armed Forces Association, said Mark had received superb care from the staff and volunteers and his last days were spent in an atmosphere and environment that suited his mild and gentle manner.

He had been a leading light, at The Sandbag Café, and it will be all the poorer for him not being there.

Col Waters said: "Whenever I took him home he would shake hands, thank me for the lift, open the door and say 'Point me skyward and push me out.' Well, we did it for the last time today – reach for the stars as you go. RIP Mark."

VIC would like to place on record our gratitude to Mark for all the support he gave The Sandbag Cafe and our Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth.

Mark's funeral is on Wednesday August 7 at 2.15pm at Preston Crematorium, standards will be present and many members of Sandbag and VIC will be in attendance.



A two-day VIC Carp Social at Sandhurst Lakes in Surrey was fully booked and a huge success; thanks to everyone who took part.



Operation Overlord talk

A FASCINATING talk was delivered by Col (Rtd) John Hawley RE all about the Mulberry Harbours created in Normandy as part of Operation Overlord.

Members of VIC Ribble Valley learnt about making concrete sink and how the

harbours facilitated unloading supply ships after the D-Day landings.

The talk was followed by the usual weekly quiz delivered by our resident Quizmaster Ron Flowers at Trinity Methodist Church in Clitheroe. Redoubt meets every Tuesday from 10am to noon.

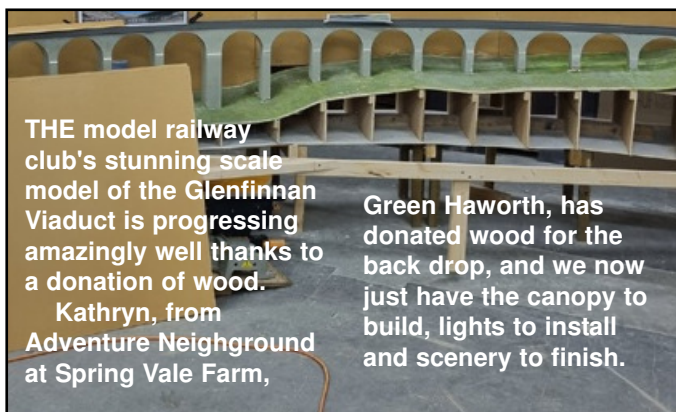


Philling the gap

TRAINING is now underway so VIC has a team of standard bearers so, if our official standard bearer Jacko Pearce is unavailable, we will be able to deputise.

Phil Chamberlain and Phil Speddy kindly volunteered to be trained and attended The Royal British Legion Standard Bearer training school in Haslingden.

Phil Speddy will be carrying the VIC standard at The Menin Gate when a group go over for a Battlefields Tour in September.



THE model railway club's stunning scale model of the Glenfinnan Viaduct is progressing amazingly well thanks to a donation of wood.

Kathryn, from Adventure Neighbourhood at Spring Vale Farm,

Green Haworth, has donated wood for the back drop, and we now just have the canopy to build, lights to install and scenery to finish.

Cultivating success

VIC's allotment is looking blooming beautiful thanks to the love and care shown by volunteer Jack.

Lots of time and hard work has been devoted by them to ensure the allotment in Helmshore is looking its best, with new beds and loads of planting. There should be a good crop in the autumn.

There has also been interest from other community groups who want to use the venue for their service users.





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.

RIBBLE VALLEY & PRESTON

TUESDAYS

Redoubt Coffee Morning and Outreach

10am-noon

Trinity Methodist Church, Wesleyan Row,

Parson Lane, Clitheroe, BB7 2JY.

The 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

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

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 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

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

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

Veterans In Communities
Charity Number 1151194

Want to help?

To support VIC
scan this QR code



VIC supported by:



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com
VIC Veterans In Communities