



Premier for charities' films

A DOCUMENTARY film that details the work of VIC was one of three to be premiered at the National Army Museum in London.

Three veterans charities were the focus of the films, VIC, Waterloo Uncovered, which takes veterans to Waterloo in Brussels to document findings and sailing charity Return to Starboard.

The Arts and Humanities Research Council-funded project was called Stories in Transition and was carried out by researchers and filmmakers from Anglia Ruskin University, University of the Arts, London and Manchester Metropolitan and Exeter Universities.

VIC Chief Executive Amanda Walton along with Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell, Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth and veteran Dave Jodrell, who feature in the film, attended the event.

Amanda was selected to read a statement on behalf of the three partners with our reflections from the project a to the many people

including Government representatives and funders.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott said: "We now want to hold a North West screening of the VIC film and are looking for venues where we can invite guests from all over the North West to be able to see it.

"What we do at VIC is unique as we do not just offer activities, we provide a holistic approach helping veterans with all aspects of their life so they can return, belong and prosper in their community.

"All of the films were very well received by those attending the premiere and there was a question and answer session following the screening.

"It was very moving and emotional to see the film on such a large screen and hear the members of VIC telling their own personal stories and recounting how being a member of VIC has helped them.

"It was an honour that, out of the three charities, Amanda was chosen to deliver the speech after the films were shown.

Newts at allotment

A BEAUTIFUL smooth newt was discovered at the VIC allotment in Helmshore as nature is beginning to enjoy the improvements that have been made.

Sam, who volunteered to transform the area, said: "The allotment is by no means

'finished', there is still a lot of work to be done, but almost 12 months on, I hope it is an improvement from last year."

As well as the newt, a baby frog and loads of birds, people are now starting to use the area.



Walks for all abilities

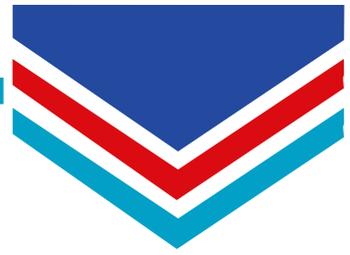


A BLUSTERY eight-mile walk from the White House at Littleborough was enjoyed by our walking group.

Meanwhile the bimble group went on an easier stroll from the VIC Centre to The Halo and then down to Rising Bridge.

The next bimble walk will be on Thursday July 27 when walkers will tackle Jumbles Reservoir path in Bolton, anticlockwise.

For information on walks contact the VIC Centre on 01706 833180.



Veterans get out and about

by Annabelle Taylor

VIC trips have been frequent since our last newsletter, with VIC members venturing on many exciting days out.

They went on a social inclusion trip out to Whitehough Outdoor Centre in Pendle, which is run by Burnley Football Club in the Community.

Also in attendance was the BFCitC Veterans' group and The Sale Shark Forces.

VIC veteran Roland Dunn said: "Everyone was so welcoming and we had a very nice buffet lunch organised by Burnley Football Club Veterans.

"We met a lot of nice people and thoroughly enjoyed our trip. Thanks to VIC Haslingden and Pat McEvoy for organising everything."

They also toured the Leyland Commercial Vehicle Museum and had lunch at St Catherine's Hospice cafe.

Everyone had a brilliant time and thanked their driver, Jacko Pearce.

Another driver worth mentioning is Darren Horsnell, who, on the journey home-bound from the Hot Ice Show in Blackpool, organised a 'chippy tea' for everyone on board.

The show was fantastic and enjoyed by everyone, and the dinner was the perfect way to end a great day out.

Charmaine Lorimer said:

"Thank you for all your organising Pat McEvoy and thank you for driving the minibus Darren. We had a lovely afternoon."

Laura Saxton commented: "Good times! Thanks to Pat McEvoy for organising the event and Darren Horsnell for chauffeuring this afternoon. Chippy was a bonus find."

The VIC has a lot to look forward to in the coming months, as there are many more trips planned.

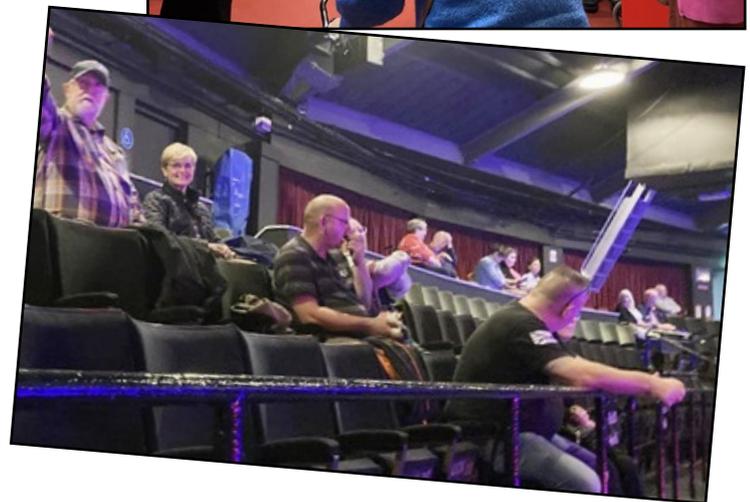
Two, which are already full: Embsay and Bolton Abbey steam railway on **Wednesday July 26** and a further visit to Embsay and Bolton Abbey steam railway with a shed tour on **Wednesday September 6**.

Many, however, are still available to book, including: **Wednesday August 9** – The Ridges Garden, Rivington, cost £10.50, depart from VIC Centre at 1pm.

Wednesday September 13 – National Arboretum, Staffordshire, cost £13, depart VIC Centre time to be confirmed.

Wednesday August 23 – Whalley Abbey, cost £15 including hot lunch, walk around the ruins and gardens and tour of Abbey house, depart VIC Centre at 11am.

Friday October 20 – Heskin Hall, Chorley, cost £13 including entrance and light lunch, depart VIC Centre at 10.30am.



Talk is well attended

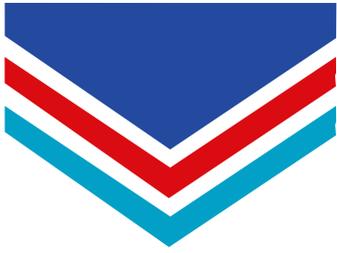
A VERY thought-provoking and informative talk was delivered by Lt Col Martin Newman to members of The Redoubt, VIC Ribble Valley.

This is the second time our organisation has been

privileged to hear his talk entitled 'British Jews In The First World War' (We Were There Too).

It proved to be very interesting and informative about the participation of the Jewish community in the transformative war.





Enrolling

OUR work placement from North Lancs Training Group Saul has enjoyed his time so much with us he is now enlisting in the Army.

He has already visited the Army Recruitment Office and is on his way to joining the military.

We wish him all the very best and thank him for all his fantastic work while he has been on work placement.

We have also welcomed Luis, a Royal Marine Cadet who is completing his Duke of Edinburgh volunteering with VIC and where better to start than a meeting with Project Worker Ray Sharkey who willingly provided Guardsman's instructions on how to shine boots.

Op Fortitude

THE next stage in the Government's pledge to 'end Veterans' homelessness' is being rolled out.

Op Fortitude was launched by Veterans' Minister Johnny Mercer and is part of an £8.55 million fund to provide wraparound services to support 1,300 veterans across 900 housing units.

A hotline has been introduced accessible on 0800 952 0774 or through a secure web portal at riv.org.uk/opfortitude

Awareness

TWO sessions were held at the VIC Centre led by Gill Hughes to encourage people become bowel cancer champions.

Scents of adventure

SNIFFER dogs are well known for being used to help search for lost people but veteran Bob Brindley is helping to train sniffer horses.

Since October last year, VIC has had links with Adventure Neighbourhood Farm at Green Howarth where equine therapy has been provided for veterans.

Bob used to be a member of Rossendale and Pendle Mountain Rescue Team and trained search and rescue dogs. He suggested to farm owner Kathryn Williams that her horses could be

trained.

Although it has not been tried in the UK, horses are widely used in America to search for scent.

He said: "We have been working with George since April and he is showing a lot of potential. Horses have a keen sense of smell, like a bloodhound, and we have found he likes fenugreek and mint tea with boiling water."

The search and find technique is used as an enrichment programme for George and a training session was held at the farm to introduce the idea to other

horse and pony owners, some of whom are no longer able to ride but want to be able to interact with their horse.

Bob said: "Although the weather was horrendous, we had a good session. We got the people to search for a 'hand' and they found it, but when we introduced George, he managed to find it much quicker than they did."

Kathryn only asked that expenses were covered and so VIC have received a donation.

VIC Administrator Amy Thompson said: "We very generously received £100 from each of the participants along with gift aid which means we can also claim the tax back. Thank you."

A further training session is already planned.



Great Scot

OUR acclaimed model railway viaduct has now had its first train pass over the track.

The railway, in the basement of the Accrington Arndale, is believed to have the largest model railway viaduct in the world and a model Flying Scotsman was the first train to cross it.



Bob Ross class

OUR latest Bob Ross class will be held on Sunday July 30 at 10.30am.

The cost of the class is £45 with all materials supplied including tea and coffee. Please bring a packed lunch and a painting top although pinnies will be available. A non-refundable £15 deposit must be paid to confirm a place.

VIC was delighted to have a stand at the 'Steer Your Career' event at Jobcentre Plus Blackburn. The event attracted up to 1,500 Jobseekers who came to find work and support opportunities.





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

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

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, Plumbe Street, Burnley, BB11 3AA. 10am-noon

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

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.

RIBBLE VALLEY

Coffee Morning and Outreach

TUESDAYS

VIC – 01706 833180

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Project Worker Ray Sharkey

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Transformational Coach Gill Hughes

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07741 902 411

Volunteer Support Worker Mel Fitzgerald

melfitzgerald@vic.org.uk

Arts and Crafts Co-ordinator Darren Horsnell

darrenhorsnell@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

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

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

VIC supported by:



Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board



Rossendalealivi
BOROUGH COUNCIL



ROCHDALE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL



Cobseo The Confederation of Service Charities



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