

Productive veterans

A BEAUTIFUL wooden aviary was created from recycled wood by Veterans In Production and has been built in the garden of a house in Blackburn.

Volunteer Production Co-ordinator Simon Peace and student Grace Codd built the sections for the aviary at the VIC Centre and it was then delivered as 'flat pack' and installed in the garden.

Operations Manager Bob Elliott praised the work of Simon and Grace. He said: "Having

seen the aviary put together made it easier to rebuild it in the garden once we delivered it to its new home. The owner was then able to collect a Kestrel for his son, which will live in the aviary. It was a one-off but it showed what can be manufactured."

VIP has also been helping to create items for the allotment in Helmshore and, along with volunteers from Kemple View in Darwen, VIC members have carried out a lot of work on the allotment.

A new polytunnel has

been built, a bench that was formerly at the centre has been recycled and is now at the allotment and new decking is being made.

Thank you to Community Champion at Haslingden Tesco Colette Butler who has presented VIC with lots of seeds to grow in our allotment.



United front

MEMBERS of VIC showed their support for Soldier F who is facing prosecution at a march from Piccadilly Gardens in Manchester to St Peter's Square.

Around 6.000 veterans and supporters joined the rally. A further gathering in support of Soldier F will be held at Media City in Salford on Saturday May 18.

Raffle prize

THIS beautiful throw has been lovingly created by VIC Crafty Chatters' member Vera Ellis, who is in her '80s.

It would brighten any home and tickets to win it are just £1 from the VIC Centre.

The raffle to be drawn at the end of April.





ENGLAND's Patron Saint was right royally celebrated at VIC's Sandbag Café in Heywood.

Nearly 50 armed forces personnel, including three Second World War veterans and supporters of VIC and Heywood Veterans Association, attended the St George's Day Breakfast at Sandon House on Tuesday April 23.

They then made the short walk to the cenotaph where a St George flag was hoisted.

VIC Volunteer Outreach Worker Liz Davies, who is also secretary of the organising committee of the Sandbag Cafe, said: "I am really pleased with how well

it has come together and how well supported the breakfast has been.

"We have now got a committee together to oversee everything, we have welfare officers and also a social committee to organise trips."

Liz's daughter Lauren, who is assistant treasurer, said: "There were five of us who came down the night before to put up decorations and bunting, sort the food and get everything ready."

Heywood Veterans' Association support the work of VIC and chairman Chris Harris arranged the ceremony at the cenotaph. Several members came dressed to the brunch as England's Patron



Saint.

West Heywood Councillor Peter Malcolm said: "I am a supporter of veterans and I helped to set up the charitable constitution for Heywood Veterans' Association.

"The breakfast clubs, including the Sandbag Café and one in Rochdale on Thursday where up to 50 people attend, are a good way of getting people out of loneliness and into a group which brings

them back into a community and gets away from isolation."



Sandbag Cafe veterans visit to the Imperial War Museum. Further trips are planned to Leeds Armouries, Rochdale Fire Station Museum and the Fusilier Museum.



Wooden horse

A STUNNING rocking horse is mid-production.

VIC Outreach Worker Steve Butterworth has been working hard on the project.

He started by first cutting wood into sections which he then laminated together to form the horse shape.

He has then sanded them smooth and although the labour of love is not finished yet, it already looks stunning.



Free fitness

VETERANS are being offered the chance to enjoy free fitness sessions every Tuesday in Brierfield.

Burnley FC in the Coomunity is arranging the sessions at the Leisure Box in Brierfield Mill, Brierfield, BB9 5NH from 8-9pm

Contact n.greene@burnleyfc.com for more details.



Cracking Easter crafts

Hearing help

VETERANS who are struggling with their hearing may be eligible for funding from The Royal British Legion's Veterans' hearing Fund.

To apply visit www.veteranshearing support.co.uk

Art show

ARTISTS from VIC will be displaying their work at an 'evening with the arts' event at Chetham Arms, Chapelton, Turton in Bolton.

On Tuesday April 30 the Crew Van will leave VIC at 6.30pm and the art exhibition will be on from 7pm.

Training

TRAINING on how to spot the signs of radicalisation and what to do about it was delivered at the VIC Centre.

A total of 12 people completed the three-hour government Prevent training programme. A drug and alcohol awareness session was also well attended.

CRAFT items were sold and awareness was raised when three VIC members held a stall at Bacup Market as part of the traditional Easter Saturday events.

Admin officer Amanda Walton, Outdoor Activities Co-ordinator Ivy Limbrick and member Jane Harvey were treated to dances by the world famous Britannia Coconut Dancers and they were also visited by Star Wars Storm

Troopers and other characters who marched around the town.

Amanda said: "We took along some art and craft items that have been made at the VIC Centre, some prints of paintings and some of the Lest We Forget range.

"We also got to speak to a number of armed forces personnel and raise awareness of the charity's work.

"Thank you to Barry Hyde for arranging our stall."



PROJECT Worker Bev Fowler is pictured with a Healthwatch Rochdale representative who called into the Sandbag Café in Heywood to see what changes veterans would like to see in the NHS.



Outdoor fun

OUR superb singing group performed in Tesco, Haslingden, and raised more than £360. Thank you to all the performers and the collectors as well as generous staff and customers at Tesco.



AN UNPLANNED walk that ended up at Pendle Sculpture Trail in Barley proved to be a treat as veterans discovered new sculptures had been installed.

A new storyline has been added featuring a boggart, a black dog, dryad and other sculptures.

On Thursday May 2 there will be a 7.5mile walk around the reservoirs off Grane Road, Haslingden, Calf Hey, Ogden and Holden Wood. The mini bus will leave the VIC Centre at 9.30am. A social inclusion trip will be held on May 16 to Queen Street Mill, Burnley, at 12.50pm.



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 AND FRIDAY

Art Group and drop-in

10.30am-3.30pm

WEDNESDAY

Allotment and Veterans In Production

Help on the allotment in Holcombe Road, Helmshore, or manufacture wooden items at the centre. Contact 01706 833180.

Community Arts and Crafts

10am-noon

Art Class

2pm-4pm

Jubilee Court, Jubilee Road, Haslingden, BB4 4DD.

THURSDAY

Woodworking Course

10am-3pm

Computer and IT help drop-in

11am-3pm

Painting with Pan Pastels

1pm-3pm cost £10

Singing Group (weekly)

6.30-8.30pm

SECOND SATURDAY

Rossendale Armed Forces and Veterans' Breakfast Club

10am-12.30pm

The Link Cafe, Haslingden Community Link, Bury Road, Haslingden BB4 5PG

EVERY MONTH

Painting in the Style of Bob Ross

Contact Darren 01706 833180.

Walking Group, Social Outings and Outdoor Activities

These are held every **THURSDAY**. Please visit the *Events* section on our VIC Facebook page or log on to the VIC website and follow the link to *Projects and Activities*.

BURNLEY AND PENDLE

Outreach Service

MONDAY - first week only

Place de Creil, near Wilkos, Nelson.
10am-noon

MONDAY - second week only

Market Place Car park, Town Square, Colne.
9am-11am

TUESDAY - every week

Breakfast Club at Burnley FC in the Community Cafe, Charter Walk.
9am-11am

WEDNESDAY - every week

Veterans Community Cafe, 1 Great George Street, Colne, BB8 0SY.
9am-11am

Contact 01706 833180 for dates of outreach at the Pendle Armed Forces Support Group, Holmefield Mill, Gisburn Road, Barrowford.

HEYWOOD, MIDDLETON AND ROCHDALE

The Sandbag Cafe and drop in

TUESDAY

10am-noon

Sandon House, Taylor Street, Heywood OL10 4EF.

THURSDAY

9am-10.30am Rochdale Breakfast Club, Rochdale Town Hall Bistro OL16 1AB.
10.30am-noon

VIC Outreach

1 Riverside, Rochdale OL16 1UB.

HYNDBURN

Outreach Service

MONDAYS

1-3pm

Ground floor near cafe Accrington Market.

Want to help?

To donate to support the work of Veterans In Communities please visit our website and click on the secure BT MyDonate page

www.vic.org.uk

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Contacts

Combat Stress Helpline

0800 138 1619

NHS Military Veterans Psychological Therapies Service (NW)

0161 253 6638

The Royal British Legion

0808 802 8080 7 days a week 8am-8pm

SSAFA

email Lancashire@ssafa.org.uk

01772 260 462

Rossendale Citizens' Advice

0300 456 2552

The Samaritans

01282 694929

Mon to Fri 9am-9pm

Freephone 116 123

Mental Health Helpline

0800 915 4640 Mon to Fri 7pm - 11pm Sat

& Sun 12 noon to 12 midnight

Royal Air Forces Association

0800 018 2361

Veterans UK Free Helpline

0808 1914 218

East Lancashire Single Point of Access via GP or self-referral

01282 657116

Bolton Armed Forces Centre 4 Veterans

www.bafc4v.org

01204 776628

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