

# ..A GREAT WAR 'LASTING LEGACY'

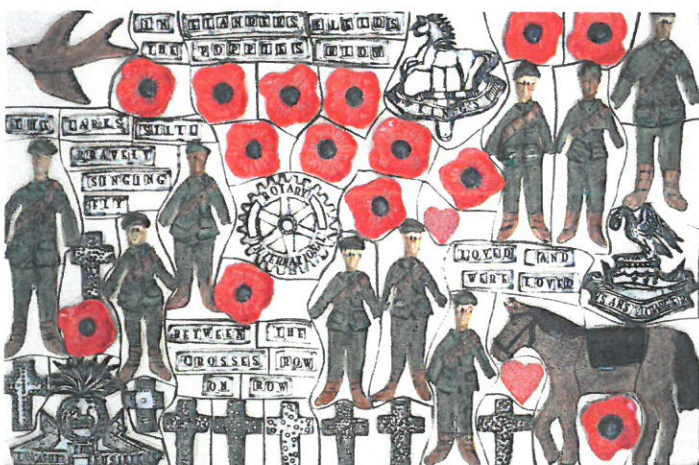


Great War City of Liverpool wreaths starts the lasting legacy project 2015.

## A 'lasting legacy' vision

As the first ever satellite club to charter into a full Rotary Club, Rotary St.Vincent's began its journey in 2015 to work with St.Vincent's school for sensory impairment Liverpool in leaving a 'lasting legacy' for those who lost their sight in the Great War. Supported by District 1180 this vision commenced with a trip to Ypres in marking the first ever gas attack in which many troops lost their sight with ST.Vincent's and All Saints Anfield pupils, Blind VeteransUK, Police, Fire cadets and Merseyside Scouts. Wreaths presented from the City including the Chief Constable, Lord Lieutenant, High Sheriff, Lord Mayor and the Duke of Westminster were laid as marks of respect in Ypres.

But it did not end here. Two simultaneous and educationally linked projects were generated to highlight the ability of visually impaired (VI) pupils, and to send educational resources to VI children around the world. These two projects surrounded the making and gifting of Great War related ceramics within the 'Never Such Innocence' commemorations ([www.neversuchinnocence.com](http://www.neversuchinnocence.com)) headed by Lady Lucy French, and the generation of the 'sightbox' as shall now be explained.



The Great War ceramic panel to be presented and hung in St Georges Hall 2019.

## Celebrating and showcasing VI creative abilities

The pupils at St.Vincent's generated a range of ceramics to showcase their creative abilities which included a ceramic brooch featured on local BBC news TV, the first ever made being gifted to Her Majesty the Queen and the Prime Minister wearing one at Question Time. It also included a poppy bowl gifted to the Duke of Edinburgh by the DofE students and commemorative war panels presented at the Palace of Westminster in October 2018 and to the City of Liverpool. The Ceramics work was recognised by Never Such and facilitated trips to Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abby and Berlin as part of the Centenary commemorations. The wider creative work from Rotary was noted in St.Vincent's award of 'Freedom of the City of Liverpool' in 2015 and a Corporate Award from Liverpool John Moores University in 2017.

## Signposting creative abilities into a global VI 'service above self' vision

Charter President Dr John Patterson and Sightbox Ambassador Angela Williams addressed assembled MPs at the Palace of Westminster whilst presenting the ceramic War Panel and shared the second connected project and its vision i.e. the physical 'sightbox'. This box contains VI supportive educational resources, and a surrounding employment and friendship generating focussed 'common good' curriculum. Rotary support has now sent sightboxes and individual sightbags to VI schools and pupils in Pakistan, India, Rwanda, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Indonesia, Kenya, Tanzania, Ghana, Ethiopia, Peru, Virgin Islands and the Philippines. Our VI pupils in Liverpool are at the first stages in using technology to teach the overseas pupils how to use the content, and Rotarians have made follow up teaching visits to Ethiopia, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Gambia, Indonesia and Kenya. We are sharing the impact snapshots on Twitter @sightboxuk and online [www.sightbox.org.uk](http://www.sightbox.org.uk)

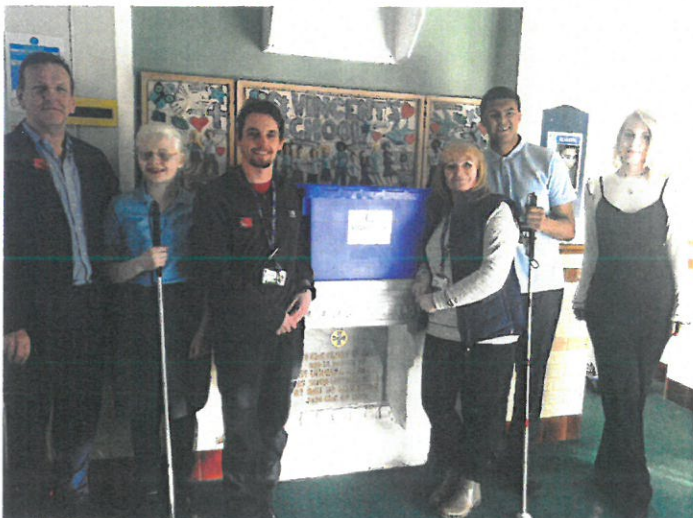
But we want to go much, much further. In the New Year 2019 our ceramic war panel with prominent Rotary Logo will be presented to be hung in St.George's Hall, Liverpool in the New Year 2019. We really wish to show a 'joined-up' Rotary and will invite all our District





*Dr J A Patterson presenting on Sightbox vision, Palace of Westminster October 2018 with Stephen Twigg MP and Sightbox backdrop.*

1180 Clubs to mark this significant occasion with us. We want to extend that invitation further, sharing the sightbox story and inviting your engagement. We want to thank those already supporting and showcase how that help has made an impact for VI children around the world as that 'lasting legacy' action. During this event in St Georges Hall we will be launching a free Great War learning resource to all schools in the Mersey Region in collaboration with Merseyside Police. This citizenship learning tool invites schools to collaborate with Rotary and raise small funds for individual sightbags, but simultaneously offers opportunity to draw attention to Rotary projects worldwide. We will share further details with you in 2019. Furthermore, we will be updating on the newest piece of sightbox content i.e. the 'I rugby Ball'. Launched at St.Vincent's as part of UN Disability day 3rd December 2018 in a demonstration game played with St.Vincent's pupils, BlindveteransUK and Merseyside Police officers it was attended by the Chief Constable Andy Cooke, QPM, who also planted a tree in the school grounds to mark the occasion. Our aim is to support St.Vincent's to see if we can get 'I Rugby' played at the Disability Games due to be held in Liverpool in 2021.



*St Vincent's staff, two pupil and Dr Patterson with the Sightbox ready to go to Geneva.*



*Sightbox Ambassador Angela Williams, Peter King Past RIBI President, Steve Martin District Governor, Steven Twigg MP, Ann Acaster Inner Wheel Chairman*



*War panel presented at Palace of Westminster including Rtn John Welsh Rtn Paul Brunskill Inspector John Sacker Merseyside Police and County commissioner of scouts Peter Oliver, Cllr Barbara Murray and Maj Gen Nic Caplin Blind Veterans UK.*

### How can you help moving forwards?

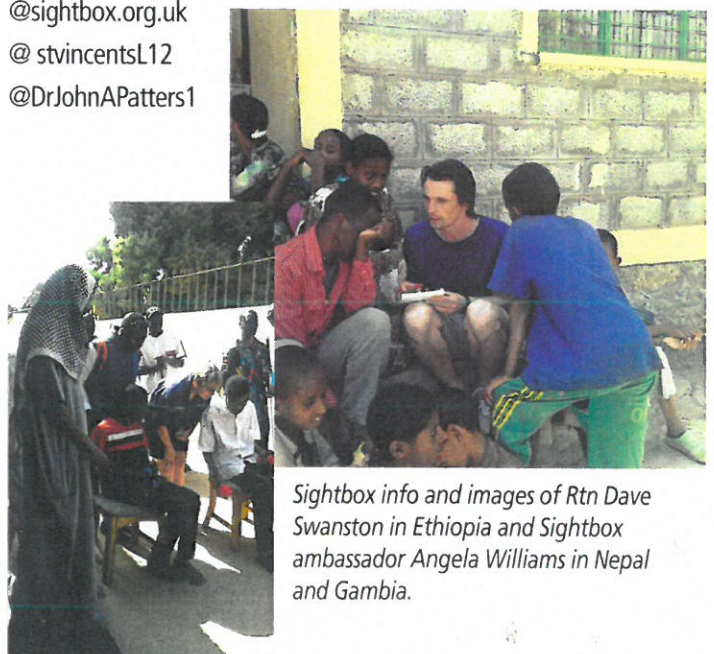
Apart from helping us raise sightbox and sightbag funds ( details [www.sightbox.org.uk](http://www.sightbox.org.uk)) we have already committed to bring over 20 VI pupils from Indonesia and Sierra Leone to learn how to use the Sightbox and peer tutor its use on their return. Whilst in Liverpool, they will participate in a mass VI musical performance at the Liverpool Philharmonic in June 2019. Will you support our sightbox 'lasting legacy' vision and attend this event ?

Please contact us via the website for more information and follow us on the twitters below for news and updates

@sightbox.org.uk

@stvincentsL12

@DrJohnAPatters1



*Sightbox info and images of Rtn Dave Swanston in Ethiopia and Sightbox ambassador Angela Williams in Nepal and Gambia.*

