



BULLETIN

AUGUST 2016

“They Have Served Their CountryNow Let Them Serve The Community”

Forward Assist delivered an arts project in partnership with Helen McArdle Care Homes and Tees Valley Arts. The project enabled the armed forces veterans in the Care home to reminisce and regale each other of their exploits and time spent in the armed forces. Part of the project entailed each veteran being photographed professionally by Ian Forsyth of Tees Valley Arts. The photographs were framed and presented at the end of the project.



Whilst the project was being delivered Sarah Lattaway was told by one of the elderly residents Vera that she would love to go in a racing car. Sarah duly took to Twitter and a day at Croft Circuit near Darlington was arranged. Unfortunately, Vera could not get into the car but she really enjoyed the day at Croft. Sharon Enderwick one of our female veterans who had been assisting on the project was taken for a spin in the car.

We were also delighted to receive funding from North Star Ventures to set up a mobile Coffee Truck Social Enterprise for Veterans accessing our service. Watch this space for more developments. Similarly Salute Brewery is going from strength to strength with Veterans regularly volunteering to learn the art of brewing Craft Beers. The project has had considerable exposure in the local press and featured on local and Forces TV News Bulletins.

Throughout August veterans took part in Golf and Foot Golf activity courtesy of North Tyneside Council at the Pitch and Putt and FootGolf Courses on The Links at Whitley Bay. This activity was particularly well received by some of our older veterans who had not taken part in any Golf before. The FootGolf was an interesting new sport and veterans who took part now actively participate in the activity with their children at weekends



An activity day was also organized in at Calvert Trust in Keilder with veterans taking part in a number of activities including, Climbing, Archery, Giant Swing and Zipwire.



Following our recent meeting with Emma Lewell Buck MP regarding a lack of specialist mental health support for female veterans, a question was asked in Parliament by Emma as to the number of female veterans serving custodial sentences. It transpires that currently the CJS is aware of 40 female Veterans are incarcerated in the UK Prison Service. Tony Wright CEO of Forward Assist & Registered Social Worker was invited to be an expert witness in the All Party Parliamentary Group Led by Emma Lewell-Buck MP & BASW looking at highlighting improvements needed in Mental Health provision for Adults. We were delighted to get female Military Veterans identified as a hidden population and one that required a distinct gender specific service.

During August Forward Assist took delivery of tools for our allotment from Wickes Limited who gave the organization a good discount, these were paid for using our Greggs Environmental Grant. Work on the allotment carried on throughout August as preparation was made for harvest.



Team Forward Assist took a team of lonely, isolated and homeless veterans up to Calvert Trust Kielder to take part in an activity based Team Building Challenge. A mixed team of Forward Assist Staff & Veterans had a thoroughly enjoyable time in the great outdoors. This Marsh funded project helped reduce social isolation and improved the physical & mental wellbeing of all involved.

The Female Veterans Group took part in fencing and shooting activity hosted at Newcastle Fencing Centre feedback from the Group was extremely positive and future sessions are being planned.



The Cook2Give project diversified during August by using a glut of beetroot from the allotment and pickling it. Our weekly Cook2Give Cookery Classes for Veterans continues to offer isolated veterans the chance to learn culinary skills as part of our wider independent living support programme. As always the monthly Cook2Give session during which the younger Veterans cook a free three course meal for a group of 30 elderly veterans is extremely popular and was recently featured on Forces TV.

