



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

Forward Assist needed to run like a ‘well-oiled machine’ to make June a success and the Team certainly rose to the challenge.

In association with North Tyneside Council’s Active North Tyneside initiative, Forward Assist are now funding archery sessions and tuition for veterans at the John Willie Sams Centre. Archery is a sport which appeals to all levels of physical ability but still requires high levels of concentration and a steady hand. The Forward Assist veterans are mixing with a group of older veterans which has given the sessions a very positive dynamic, not to mention the great camaraderie and slightly competitive atmosphere!



Forward Assist’s annual football tournament was held at the John Willie Sams Centre. It gave us the opportunity to engage with the local community by providing joint activities and entertainment available for local families. Operations Director, Colin Hutchinson, dusted off his football boots to lead the Forward Assist team

against teams from over the North East. Sage UK fielded two teams and were accompanied by SAFC Foundation of Light, and Middlesbrough Teesside Sports Academy. All teams competed in the spirit of game with Middlesbrough Teesside Sports Academy coming out on top. Forward Assist were grateful to North Tyneside Council’s Elected Mayor Norma Redfearn who gave up her time to make the presentations. The ‘Phillip Thompson Award’ went to Simon Miller for outstanding personal achievement. Simon served in the Light Infantry and was struggling with civilian life after he left. Once engaged with Forward Assist he attended our ‘Mission Employable’ work placement scheme with Starbucks and successfully secured employment on completion. Simon is still serving customers coffee at the store in Eldon Square. The ‘John Hall DFC Memorial Shield’ (presented by his daughter Sheila) for Player of the Tournament went to Patrick Thompson of Middlesbrough Teesside Sports Academy. John sadly passed away in February this year and Forward Assist honour his memory with this award.

Sarah Lattaway and the female veteran group met with the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and Newcastle University to review how women, serving in the military, are portrayed in a selection of books. One example in a sticker book featured a female dressed in a pink military uniform with flowing blonde hair. A report of the study will be submitted to the publishers.

WIS veteran Phil Logan returned from Orlando, Florida, where he was competing in this year’s Invictus Games. He presented Forward Assist with his official Invictus Games shirt which is proudly displayed on the wall in our office. Thank you very much Phil!



High Tide Adventure gave the opportunity for veterans (Marsh funded) to participate in ghyll scrambling, mountain biking, a mountain adventure, coasteering, and canoeing throughout June. Diversionary activities such as these are an important part of reintegrating veterans to their communities. All the veterans had a great time pushing their physical and mental boundaries and improved their health and wellbeing.



Sarah Lattaway, in partnership with Middlesbrough Football Club Foundation, began a health and wellbeing pilot course for veterans. The course, tailored to veterans, aims to improve awareness of individual health and wellbeing through a combination of theory and practical sessions.

Tony Wright, Neil Tully and Sarah Lattaway travelled down to Phoenix House Recovery Centre in Catterick Garrison. They met with the centre Welfare Officer, Chris Moat, who provided a guided tour of the fantastic facilities and services provided to both serving and discharged military personnel. They also called in to see the Veterans Woodcraft team and had a tour of their workshop. Veterans Woodcraft offer veterans qualifications in the use of woodworking machinery with the aim of increasing employability in ‘civvy street’.