

Veterans' Community Force continues to deliver unique training opportunities



We recently embarked on an exciting painting upskilling programme in partnership with Riverside and Social Enterprise organisation, Halton Veterans Association.

We're delighted to report that we've just finished the second round of Veterans Community Force training, a unique opportunity to help increase future employment opportunities.

Thousands of veterans return to civilian life each year and face the difficult prospect of adjusting to their new way of life. Many of the veterans supported by the Halton Veterans Association suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Painting has long been proven to have many therapeutic benefits particularly with soldiers returning from war and has been used in many innovative ways to assist with rehabilitation for traumatised individuals.

With one to one mentoring from the Ian Williams team, each week-long training per group begins with a full day of theory which includes health and safety. Days two to five are of a more practical nature and include the veterans gaining skills in paint preparation and various application techniques.

The theory training takes place at Halton Veterans Associations offices and the practical skill training is then undertaken by 4 highly skilled painting operatives in void properties which our customer Riverside have kindly offered to provide as part of our ongoing collaborative approach to delivering local community initiatives.

All veterans are given their own painting starter kit which includes essential trade tools such as brushes, rollers and overalls and a certificate of achievement is awarded to all upon completion of the training.



Supporting local hospital

The Ian Williams' Foundation was recently delighted to donate £860 to set up a pop-up baby shop, which will raise awareness and funds for Southmead Hospital Charity's Maternity Fund.

Ian Williams' Bid Writer, Kate Henderson, a new mother herself, has been involved in setting up the shop which will be sited in a unit donated by Yate Shopping Centre.

Adrian Brown, corporate and community manager at Southmead Hospital Charity, said: "We're very grateful to the team for organising the pop-up shop and raising money for us. It's an inspired idea and we're delighted to be the chosen charity."



Team Ian Williams completes London Revolution

A team from Ian Williams recently completed the London Revolution – a 2-day cycling challenge taking riders on an iconic, diverse and demanding ride through London.

The team which comprised Andy Havad, Mike Turner and Paul Greenyer, completed the challenging 300km course in 13:45 hours, riding alongside 2,500 other cyclists in one of the UK's largest cycling challenges.

In support, the Ian Williams Foundation donated £3,000 to the Outward Bound Trust, the event's nominated charity.



Avast Ye! All Hands Hoay!

A 20-strong team representing Ian Williams' 'pirates-in-training' with family and friends supporting, recently took to the water in the 12th annual Leeds Dragon Boat Race in aid of Martin House Hospice for Children and Young People, raising to date £1,320. And it was so close – a photo finish for our team finishing second with just 0.2 seconds difference.



Ian Williams' Business Manager and Race Commodore, Stuart Sunderland commented: "I entered the Leeds Ian Williams team into the Dragon Boat race event to raise money for Martin House.

It was a fantastic day for a fantastic cause, and I reckon we'll be all aboard again next year."

- If you haven't already, it's not too late to donate at: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/IanWilliamsLeeds

- To find out more about the Foundation or to apply for funding visit: www.ianwilliams.co.uk/ian-williams-foundation/