

RXW20

By Anna Baker Cresswell

By July, the weather for RXW20 was really hotting up and it was a case of hats all round during the excellent programme of visits which Chris Shepherd had arranged..

We had another first as we were joined by Luna, our first Assistance Dog who was accompanying her 27 year old Army veteran owner who was delighted to have been able to bring her, and commented several times how he was able to learn more and get more out of the week knowing that she was by his side – a very humbling experience for us all..

It was also Pete Boorn's first week as Course Manager and we were delighted that he could bring his years of experience in the uniformed services to the Rural Week; his Royal Marines perspective gave a fascinating aspect to his evening talk and we also welcomed Nick Goldsmith from <https://www.hiddenvalleybushcraft.co.uk/> and Ian Berry as our other evening speakers – Royal Marines back to back..!!

It was hot work for all our presenters from <https://southyeofarmwest.co.uk/>, <http://www.clintondevon.com/>, <https://www.rspb.org.uk/>, <https://basc.org.uk/>, <https://www.glendale-services.co.uk/>, <https://www.ground-control.co.uk/>, <http://www.greenvalleycyder.co.uk/>, Sampson Hall, Roger Halliday, Terry Farkins, Tom Lowday, <http://www.hi-line.co.uk/> Mark Agnew and all the staff at Bicton and we thank each and every one of you for your good humour as we sweltered our way through Chris's packed programme.

We were delighted that Becci and Laurie from <https://theroyalmarinescharity.org.uk/> joined us for Nick's inspirational talk on Monday evening, and we look forward to welcoming many more Royal Marines to Bicton for Rural Weeks as they begin Life beyond the military – Outdoors.

You can see the story of our Rural Week in pictures here <https://www.flickr.com/photos/highgrounduk/albums/72157693505214920>

Last word:

Anna,

Thanks ever so much for an amazing week. It's been ideal for me to test myself in a safe environment and explore the opportunities for employment within this sector. Although I am pursuing the bushcraft route, I intend to find employment within the land based sector to support this.

Army Colour Sgt aged 48.