Charity for Veterans Opens New Site in East Sussex

Friday 20 December, 2019

A charity providing horticultural therapy to veterans of the Armed Forces has opened its doors at a 5 acre site in Westfield, nr. Hastings. Veterans' Growth works with ex-military personnel to promote positive mental health and wellbeing. Offering non-residential and residential courses, it provides a wide range of horticultural activities based around food and cut flower production.

CEO Jason Stevens said: "We are thankful for the opportunity to work from this extensive site, which affords us the space to welcome many veterans. We plan to develop the site over the next year or two and make it a place where veterans can come for respite, for support and for social interaction. We've already received fantastic support from the local community and we look forward to working in partnership with local people and veterans to create a really special place."

Seed sowing is currently underway in the newly erected 76 foot polytunnel, to provide the first crop of vegetables and flowers that will be planted out. Work starts in January to overhaul the ornamental sections of the garden and the wildlife pond that are on site. A new composting toilet will be installed early next year with funds kindly donated from the Rotary Club of Hastings.

The charity is currently staffed entirely by volunteers and would welcome support to help it move forward with its aims. If you feel you can offer assistance, please email sarah@veteransgrowth.org If you are a veteran and would like to take part in one of the courses or would like a chat or to find out more, please text or call 07379 435513.

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