

Veterans art goes on display



STUNNING artwork created by armed forces personnel and their families went on public display.

Members of Veterans In Communities art group, along with ex-service personnel from Cornwall, Devon and East Anglia, displayed their arts and crafts at AG6, in Rawtenstall.

VIC art group co-ordinator Darren Horsnell said: "It was brilliant. I know what I get out of art and to be able to pass that on to other veterans is so much better than any medication.

"To see their faces when they saw people's reaction to their work and for them to be able to discuss their art with people who are interested in it was very rewarding."



Pop-up shop in Bury



A POP-UP art shop was open in Mill Gate Shopping Centre, Bury, for one week from 23rd to 29th July.

The shop, in the former Curry's, was opened by retired Major Edmond Garside and by Thursday it had already been visited by 800 people.

The shop was arranged by VIC members Darren Horsnell and Steve Butterworth who both exhibited.

Darren is a Falklands veteran who suffered Post Traumatic Stress Disorder as a result of scenes he witnessed. He discovered art while recuperating at Combat Stress and now leads the VIC art group in Bacup.

Steve also served in the Falklands on HMS Intrepid and two years ago struggled with depression after losing

his job. He discovered art when attending the sessions run by Darren.

Darren said: "It has been such a success I have had to ring up members of the art group to ask them to bring more paintings down.

"The reaction of people has been amazing. Many of them cannot believe that the people exhibiting have only taken art up in the last year."

Members of the art group come from a variety of backgrounds, some have seen active service and some not.

The shop was also used for outreach and to promote the work of VIC and other veteran organisations.

VIC was very grateful to the members of the Fusiliers Association Lancashire who supported the shop.

