

Reach

Community Projects

Tackling poverty in and around Haverhill

July 2018 News

Dear <<First Name>>,

Welcome to our latest newsletter. We send out regular updates like this to keep you updated on our latest news and client stories.

What's Been Happening



We hope you are enjoying the amazing weather.

Donate Here

If you'd like to support Reach and our projects, please **click the donate button** above. We would greatly appreciate the support.

Upcoming

Social Enterprise

Over the last 12-18 months we have grown as an organisation from 4 people to 7 and whilst we are bringing in enough money through grants and one off donations, we are very keen to become less reliant on grants and be able to generate our own income through social enterprise projects and regular giving.

We certainly are and a few of us have clubbed together to 'pretty up' our admin office with each one of us taking it in turns to water the plants! (We hope you spotted that they are the REACH colours!)

While we are very aware that there is no such thing as a 'silver bullet' that will generate thousands of pounds, we have started to work with agencies to enable this to happen.

Other Big News

MBE for our Projects Director

You may already be aware of this, but our Projects Director – Henry Wilson was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June. Henry says:

“Wow what a month June has been, not only has our daughter got married, but to be awarded an MBE is just unreal! I’m sure that I’m going to wake up soon and see that it was all a dream! Things like this doesn’t happen to folks like us, I’m just a local boy, brought up on a council estate in Haverhill whose family struggled with debt and low income! That said, it is an immense honour and I am equally humbled to receive the award on behalf of REACH. For me it encapsulates what REACH is all about; one of our core values is ‘Believing for Better’ in other words, not letting our past or our current circumstances define our future, and I’m just an ordinary chap in Haverhill, so if it can happen to me, it can happen to anyone! My prayer is that it will open more doors for our work and ultimately lift more people out of poverty.”

Henry has recorded a short film expressing his thanks to all and what it means to him and can be found below and on our YouTube channel.



Annual Report and Accounts

Annual Review
9th Sep 2016 to 30th Sep 2017

We are pleased to be able to publish our first ever official Annual Report and Accounts!

To read a little more about our first full year as a charitable incorporated organisation, click on the link [here](#)



Projects Update



It remains incredibly busy across the projects, especially the outreach and debt project. Ann is also helping out Tina & Jo with home visits and completing initial debt fact finds, we certainly could do with another person to help stay on top of the workload! Most of the debt issues are benefit related where people have moved over to Universal Credit and something has gone wrong with the application and the delay in their money compounds the already precarious situation our clients find themselves in.

On a much brighter note, we hear of little breakthroughs all the time, and often it is the small steps that contribute to the larger picture that ultimately brings clients situations under control. For example, Jo has had some success out in the villages with one young family who are both working but are on zero hours contracts and have got behind on their rent and council tax. We helped with food, nappies and a gift from Acts 435 ([link](#)) to help out with their electricity whilst we put together a plan. In the meantime Jo applied for a grant to cover their rent arrears and just recently Jo learned that this had been successful. The young mum said ***“I can’t believe it, one whole debt has gone! When we are in a better financial situation we are going to help others just like we***

have been helped. It's so amazing. Thank you.

And this also means that we can move from living out in the middle of nowhere to a bigger town – my partner wants to go to college and we can find so much more to do with our young toddler.”

She is not fully out of the woods yet, but this is fairly typical of a day in the life of the REACH team.

Regular Giving

Can you help us support more local families
in and around Haverhill?



Could you help support the work of lifting people out of poverty locally? We are very grateful to all for all your support as we really couldn't do this without your help. We currently have 35 people/organisations giving £1680 per month which is fantastic. Could you too help support us regularly with a gift? For example, £5 per month would enable us buy feminine products for a lady who can't afford to purchase these. £10 would enable us to buy a bedding pack, £25 would help with electricity for up to 1 week whereas £50 would help us keep the foodbank van on the road for a month.

Whatever you are able to do would be gratefully received and used to help us lift people out of poverty in and around Haverhill. Please click [here](#) to learn more.

Kind regards

Henry Wilson

Henry Wilson
Projects Director
