



REACH Community Projects has a bitter-sweet celebration after setting a new record for the financial support it has gained for people in need.

Contributed picture

# Charity sets new record for financial support provided

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Haverhill-based REACH Community Projects has achieved record-breaking financial gains for its clients as it continues to help people in hardship.

The record-high figure of £502,975 covers the period between October 2023 and March.

The amount is made up of emergency aid, utility support, benefits entitlements – including Child Benefit – debt relief and money from the Household Support Fund, which is due to end in September.

Henry Wilson, the charity's CEO, said: "I cannot describe how extremely pleased I am with our dedicated team of staff and volunteers for having achieved this simply incredible result and my thanks goes out to them as well as to our superb donors and benefactors who make this possible.

"It's more pounds in pockets and means people don't have to rely on the foodbank."

REACH supports those in financial crisis, in the Haverhill and surrounding areas, often starting with emergency aid from various funds to deal with the immediate situation and then working through a programme of debt relief and to claim benefit entitlements which, often through the complexities of the system, have eluded those in need.

Henry continued: "Of course, the joy at being

able to deliver this record amount is tempered somewhat by the fact that it is necessary in the first place and that the need is growing.

"This half-million pound figure is almost £100,000 up on our last set of data for a similar period and it saddens me greatly that this is a rising barometer of the amount of distress and destitution within what should be a modern caring society."



Henry later spoke of his deep concern at recent media reports suggesting that the bar is going to be significantly raised for genuine benefit claimants and that the successful Work and Health Programme will end in the autumn.

He said: "While some of our clients are not in work, many are.

"But even they still find making ends meet, in this world of rising prices and high rents, very difficult indeed.

"REACH is there to lend a helping hand to get through individual and family financial crises, but our job will be made harder if statutory institutional support is reduced or removed."

## Schedule of fund-raising car boot sales set to get underway

Haverhill car boot sales organised by the Haverhill Show Committee are returning this year with the first one planned for Sunday, May 12.

All monies raised help fund the Haverhill Show, the town's largest summer event, which raises money for local charities and good causes.

The car boots take place on the Recreation Ground from 7am to midday. Food and refreshments and limited parking are available.

Car boots are planned for May, June, July 7 (at the Haverhill Show), August and September.

Committee chairman, Joe Mason,

All enquiries should be emailed to [haverhillshow@outlook.com](mailto:haverhillshow@outlook.com)

## Charity walk is in memory of popular mum-of-two Janet

The family of a well-known and popular Haverhill resident who died suddenly in February is holding a fund-raising walk in her memory.

The walk on Saturday, May 18, from Frinton esplanade to Walton on the Naze, and back, is being undertaken in memory of Janet Goodsell, who died from a heart attack at her home in Haverhill on February 27. She was 67.

The walk has a start point of beach hut number 507 and will depart at

11am, although walkers can choose their own time if preferred.

People are also being invited to have a walk in memory Janet on a date and location of their choice.

The walk has been organised by Janet's ex-husband Steve and their children Chris and Hayley and set up as an event on the British Heart Foundation website, where donations can be made at: <https://tributefunds.bhf.org.uk/event/Walk-for-Janet>

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