

# Christians offer help to clear debts

BY Jo Deeks

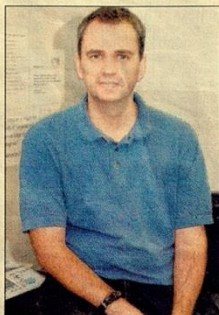
Email: editorial@haverhillweeklynews.co.uk

PEOPLE with money worries can visit a new debt-counselling centre in Haverhill.

The new centre has opened as a partnership between national charity Christians Against Poverty (CAP) and the River of Life Community Church in Haverhill.

The latest figures from the Department of Trade and Industry show that one in four UK households are in debt and it is expected that this new service will fulfil a need in Haverhill and the surrounding area.

Henry Wilson, the centre's manager said: "It's a bit of a change from my usual work as a photographer, but as a Christian



■ NEW SERVICE . . . debt counselling centre manager, Henry Wilson.

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already helped thousands of people. If you would like to help us help even more, we would love to hear from you.

## Anniversary Showcase

We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting a showcase event on Wednesday 16th September at Haverhill Arts Centre with guest speaker - Matt Bird, CEO of the Cinnamon Network [www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk](http://www.cinnamonnetwork.co.uk). Come and hear some of the stories of lives changed over the last 10 years.



You can also keep up to date with the work - including project needs (furniture, food, Starter Packs etc) pictures, video updates, radio & TV interviews etc., on Facebook - "REACH Haverhill" & Twitter @HenryReach or @AnnReach



We now have a Flickr account too with all our latest news in pictures via our website [www.reachhaverhill.org.uk](http://www.reachhaverhill.org.uk)

## 10 Years in the Community

What began as a debt counselling project 10 years ago has morphed into REACH Community Projects with a great team of over 50 people helping hundreds of others struggling with poverty related issues every year.

This year we will be celebrating this milestone with a number of fundraising events, our goal being to raise £10,000 for REACH. Please support our sponsored run, cycle or swim – whatever it might be or come along to a local event raising money for REACH. We've



## ACTS 435 makes its 5000th Grant

ACTS 435 is an online charity which enables REACH to get financial assistance for clients with specific needs. Over the last 5 years we have been very successful in having requests met, providing all manner of essential items such as white goods, 'back to work' clothing, school uniform and many other things. Recently ACTS 435 awarded their 5000th grant – and we were thrilled that it was one of our clients, a lady who needed a new shed for her mobility scooter. Recipient, Mrs Grimsley said "it is very much appreciated. I couldn't have done it on my own. I am over the moon."



### Foodbank Racking Completed through ONE Haverhill

We reported in our last newsletter that Councillor Roger André had provided £700 towards the cost of extended Foodbank racking at the warehouse. We were very pleased to receive a further £1,000 from ONE Haverhill, enabling us to complete Phase 2 of the racking. This means we can be more effective in the warehouse, efficiently organising the large volumes of food which we deal with. We are grateful both to Councillor André and to ONE Haverhill for the recognition of our work that these grants represent.



We were pleased to have the support of Haverhill company **Herbert Retail**, who collected a total of 84kg of food for the Foodbank. We welcome all support from the business community whether it's food or financial.



### Presentation from Councillor Anne Gower

We were delighted recently to receive a grant of £300 from Councillor Anne Gower who has been a great advocate of REACH. This paid for a new laptop for our Resource Centre Administrator and Debt Coordinator, Lesley which will enable her to work more effectively especially when not at the Resource Centre. Councillor Gower visited us to hand over the grant – a special occasion as she is standing down as a Councillor. We were able to thank her for the tremendous support she has provided to REACH over the last 7 years both financially and personally. We will miss her support and wish her well for the future.



It has been great to welcome a number of organisations into our **volunteer programme**. Dean (left) is a valued member of the food team. He's always smiling and loves being part of the day to day work in the warehouse. He said recently, *"Thank you for letting me help at the Foodbank. I came in my suit and I got the job. I enjoy helping people."*