

The Friends of The Porch Project Committee

Liz Reid, Sheena Lawrence, Sarah Craven,
Hilary Jacklin, Deborah Bennett and Laura Erith

We would like to thank everyone who has made a donation to the Porch Project in recent months. Your continued support is valued and appreciated by everyone involved.

In particular, we would like to mention:

Brett Valley Masonic Lodge

Six Acre Productions

Hadleigh Farmers Agricultural Association

All Saints Church, Little Cornard

Great Cornard Land Charity

Great Cornard Parish Council

South Suffolk Leisure

TSB

Ipswich Building Society

Nordson Dage

Hadleigh Hall Nursing Home

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Tim Passmore, Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner, visits the Porch Project.

On 28th July we welcomed Tim Passmore, Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner, to the Porch Project.

We have been very fortunate to receive two substantial grants from the Crime Commissioner's 'Safer Suffolk' Fund which has been created by Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner to support the work of voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations (VCSE) that are delivering services that help make Suffolk a safer place to live, work, travel and invest in.

It is recognised that the VCSE plays an important role in augmenting community safety across Suffolk particularly around crime prevention and victim support, something that the Police and Crime Commissioner would like to develop further. Through the creation of a grant fund, much needed financial assistance will be made available via a grants programme designed to help support VCSE activity that is addressing community safety issues.

The visit was a chance for the Commissioner to see our work in action. He

was given a presentation covering all aspects of what we do, followed by a tour of the offices.

He then chatted to the youth workers and was extremely complimentary and very supportive of our work with young people. He left thanking the Project for delivering an excellent service.

Hilary Jacklin
Trustee



New home for the Porch



At last, we have finally moved into our permanent new home at 28a The High Street, Hadleigh.

The new premises give us the perfect amount of safe and secure space to run our focussed learning programmes that help and support so many young people in Hadleigh and Great Cornard.

New Learning Programme at the Porch ...



Venture is a six session programme run over six months that culminates in an overnight survival camp. This programme is designed to re-engage young people with the outdoor environment and help them explore their own personal growth through various practical survival and teamwork skills.

Working in partnership with another charity "Greenpath Ventures" we have the expertise of a fully trained bushcraft instructor, John Wills. The aim of the programme is to be open to all young people between 11-19.

It differs from existing outdoor programmes in the way that it is based around a more holistic therapeutic approach. The nature of the sessions will progress with full consultation of the young people involved, this allows a real team element to grow and a more organic journey.

As long as the young people involved learn the skills they need to "survive" on the overnight camp throughout the six months then the order they learn it in has little importance. This is a programme for young people, guided by young people.

Practical skills learned will be: fire lighting techniques, fire building and safety, tree and plant identification, foraging, cutting tools workshops, tent peg making, shelter building, hammocks, emergency expedition evacuation, rope skills, outdoor cooking, crafts and wildlife spotting.

Ben Day

Youthwork Co-ordinator



George's Story

A young person that stands out on the project's Venture programme is George. George had never been part of the Project and had never heard of what we do. He first met Ben at Thomas Gainsborough School through the mentoring programme that the Project has been running there. Ben worked closely with George to try and help him resolve some issues and to re-integrate him back into his timetabled lessons.

After getting talking it became clear that George has a passion for the outdoors. When he was told about the Venture Programme he was hooked from the start. George spoke to his parents and was given permission to join the project and the programme. His parents were a little apprehensive as George had been having a few issues socially with other young people.

From the very first session at Venture George dived in head first and got stuck in with all the challenges and practical skills. He totally thrived and was a great addition to the group. It became a place for him to develop his social skills and relax. A highlight for staff was when he bought in popcorn to cook on the camp fire for the whole group, some of whom were people he wasn't getting on with. This was a bold move and showed great maturity. George has attended all the sessions he has been able to and has learned a whole host of outdoor skills.

Because of all of George's hard work he was invited to the project's AGM, where he was interviewed by Venture's senior instructor and Ben from the Project. His mother was also present and spoke to everyone about the huge changes she has seen in George and how thankful she is for the programme.



George and Ben
Day our Youthwork
Co-ordinator

WW1 Battlefield Tour for members of the Porch

On August 8th and 9th the Porch Project was fortunate enough to be able to take seven young people to France on a two-day WW1 Battlefield Tour. This was made available to us by Mark Brennan and the Hadleigh Great War Centenary Fund. What a wonderful opportunity for local young people to witness first-hand the great sacrifice and bravery of their local forefathers.

After the excitement of the Eurotunnel, a new experience for many involved, we headed into Belgium for our first stop at a small cemetery. The whole trip focused around Hadleigh men who had fought and lost their lives in the Great War. Mark had fantastic information about each man, photos, letters home and postcards, which made it ever more poignant. We placed a small cross at each grave we visited to commemorate the Hadleigh men.

Our next stop was Ypres (or 'Wipers' to the British soldiers) and the Menin Gate. This was a good chance for everyone to soak up the culture and grab an ice cream. Here we found one of the young people's Great Great Great Uncle's name commemorated on the Menin Gate itself. A hugely important monument for fallen soldiers in the region.

Back on the bus we headed toward our accommodation in the Somme region. Even the building we stayed in was a former British officer's headquarters complete with trenches. Fed and watered we bedded down for the night, well eventually after numerous "lights out" requests.



Our second day involved travelling down the western front visiting various Commonwealth Cemeteries. This really brought home just how many people across the world were and still are affected by the Great war.

After a spot of well-earned lunch, young Tyler Hansen volunteered to dress up in full WW1 soldier gear and we learned a little more about the conditions the men had to fight in. If you've ever used the phrase "kick the bucket" go on Google and find its origins.

As we meandered back North nearer to Calais and home we visited another few key areas, one of which being an 80-foot-wide and 60-foot-deep bomb crater, that was a sight to behold. We then concluded our trip in Thiepval. Here stands an enormous Memorial to the missing, listing the names of over 72,000 British & South African servicemen who died during the battles of the Somme. The whole trip and all of its emotions culminated here. The sheer size and presence of the place certainly had a powerful impact on all the young people. It has to be said there was a few of us moved to tears. What an amazing way to end this trip, we really had all learned so much and firmly placed our thoughts and feelings alongside those few Brave Hadleigh men that gave so much for us all.

Great memories for all involved and the biggest thank you to Mark Brennan



We are looking for **volunteers** to help with the Project. If you could offer a few hours twice a month on a Tuesday or a Friday we would love to hear from you.

Please contact

Zach Corrie 07471 687575

or email

youthworker3@porchproject.co.uk

We are on the web!
porchproject.co.uk.



Over 500 young people are registered.

AGM

On Thursday 27th July 2017 we held the 6th AGM of the Porch Project.

Our three youth workers, Ben Day, Zach Corrie and Rhiannon Blackman presented a video showcasing the various events and programmes that we offer. Rhi runs Inspirations for girls on a Monday evening and has provided hands on sessions with mixed media, crafts, food, textiles, yoga, bath bomb making and various other interests. Ben and Zach run Venture - an outdoor activity event for both Hadleigh and Great Cornard.

The Porch Project still runs the Horizons programme for CV writing, interview techniques, homework/revision sessions, money management alongside music and film nights. All programmes are designed to provide measurable, soft outcomes and enhance team building, self-esteem and confidence.

Work continues with schools in both Hadleigh and Great Cornard and particularly with Thomas Gainsborough in Sudbury.

We have been present at many local events, ensuring we become better known. We have had stands at The Hadleigh Show, Suffolk on Show, Party in the Park, Great Cornard Fete, Suffolk Day, HadFest, Enrichment Day at Hadleigh High School and hosted an

open day in St Mary's for year 6.

Porch is also involved in various community events and works closely with the Police, specifically at the Hadleigh Skate Park, with the construction of a wheels sculpture and decorating waste bins. We work with Street Watch, assisting with watering the hanging baskets in the High Street, are involved with the Festival of Art & Gardening in the Bra-ha-ha project as well as working with the Tidy Town Team.

The Chairman was delighted to announce that, with effect from 1 August, Ben Day was appointed Youthwork Co-Ordinator. He thanked the fund raisers whose wonderful efforts had made us financially stable and able to deliver on all our aims and move forward so positively, thanked the youth workers and thanked the Treasurer and Secretary for their continuing invaluable support. He re-iterated the need for more volunteers.

Finally, he thanked everyone for attending and invited them to join the Trustees and Management Committee for delicious refreshments which were kindly donated by the Lindsey Rose.

Jess Janas
Secretary to the Porch Project

POLSTEAD WALK 2017

The third Polstead Walk, in support of the Porch Project, took place in June. It was a beautifully hot, sunny day and once again James and Hilary very kindly provided a stunning venue.

Over 60 walkers took part together with a huge number of dogs. The walk covered about 6 miles of beautiful Suffolk countryside. The walkers then enjoyed a delicious lunch on their return, sitting in the sunshine in the beautiful garden at New House Farm. Ben and Zach, two of our youth workers came along and chatted about Porch and all the wonderful things that they are achieving. Yet again, over £1,000 was raised, which is a brilliant achievement. Thank you to everyone who came along.

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Charity Number: 1143203