

## **THE PORCH PROJECT**

**Registered Charity No. 1143203**

### **TRUSTEE'S REPORT**

It gives me great pleasure to present the trustees report for the year ending 31st December 2017. This marks six years since the Porch Project became a registered charity and I believe that these formative years have now produced a relevant, sustainable organisation with a clear sense of purpose that Hadleigh, Cornard and the surrounding areas can be truly proud of. I am incredibly grateful to the trustees, youth workers and volunteers all of whom have been amazing and in particular Judith and Jess.

I am pleased to report that there have been no changes to the trustee board. I believe that the trustees have a wide range of skill sets that fulfil everything that the Porch Project requires and that we are very lucky to have them. However, I am very conscious of the need to maintain the skill set and we will always look to add relevant expertise as required.

Ben Day was promoted to the role of Youth Work co-ordinator during the year which has worked extremely well. He has been instrumental in setting up Venture our outdoor skills & survival programme as well as running an early intervention programme for young men at the Thomas Gainsborough School in Great Cornard. Zach Corrie continues to grow into the role of youth worker and is a highly respected member of the team, his rapport with the young people is one of the major assets of the Porch Project. He is also setting up Horizons our career-based programme. Rhiannon Blackman joined us during the year and has been a tremendous help in attracting girls back to the project and making it relevant to them with her Inspirations programme. Unfortunately, the role did not fit in with her life and she returned to teaching at the end of the year. Our intention is to maintain a team of three so Rhiannon will be replaced.

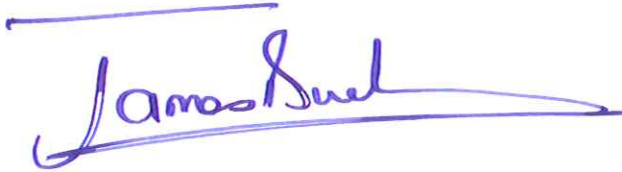
During the year the trustee board commissioned an independent review of the Project by Mark Gillett B.ED., DMS (Education), M.Sc. (Education Management). The findings were very positive and reinforced our belief that the Project is doing what it set out to do. However, as expected, there are areas where changes/improvements are needed and we will focus on these in the coming year.

The trustee board took the decision to disband the management committee as they felt the need to be closer to the activity. This has had the desired effect and has made for a much tighter organisation although it has meant that we have lost some oversight from experienced people who we will always be extremely grateful to.

For me the most exciting event of the year was to at last find a long-term home for the Project, it has been incredibly unsettling for everyone to be “sofa surfing”. I am sure that the building will become more personalised over time and very much hope that the young people will make it theirs.

Again, the Porch Project has had an amazing year, we have seen both the trustee board and the youth workers continue to grow and meet the ever increasing challenges. Our fundraising strategy has shown some incredible successes and has given a level of sustainability and resilience allowing us to go forward with confidence. We have been able to maintain the reserve policy set last year and intend to further secure these funds by moving the money from our current bank account to a savings account.

A huge amount of thanks goes to all those who have supported us in any way and especially the amazing financial donations that you have all given. There is still a lot to do but we have a team in place to really deliver for the young people of Hadleigh, Cornard and surrounding areas.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James Buckle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right. There are two horizontal lines above and below the signature, one above the first part and one below the entire signature.

James K Buckle – Chair of Trustees