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Haverhill Santa presented cheques for £2,331.20 to Henry Wilson MBE, from REACH Community Projects (left) and to Denise and Sean Tarrant, from the Joshua Tarrant Trust.

Charities given late Christmas presents from Santa Claus

Steve Barton
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Festive spirit was on full display when the Haverhill Santa team presented cheques worth more than £4,600 to two town-based charities.

REACH Community Projects and the Joshua Tarrant Trust received exactly half each of the £4,662.40 raised by Haverhill Santa.

The funds were officially handed over by Santa himself at a special presentation last week in The Flying Shuttle pub, at Haverhill Research Park.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, the Santa sleigh team, along with a dedicated group of volunteers, brought joy to Haverhill.

Their visits also included a special appearance at the Kedington Parish

Council Christmas event, as well as at the Christmas Carnival Parade in Haverhill, helping spread festive cheer while raising vital funds for two causes that make a real difference in the community.

Treasurer Kelly Bennett expressed heartfelt gratitude to the people of Haverhill, saying: "We are immensely thankful for the kindness and generosity of residents.

"Their donations have helped us raise a significant amount for two wonderful charities that do so much for local families."

Joe Mason, one of the event's organisers, praised the hardworking team behind the scenes: "This event would simply not be possible without our incredible volunteers - the elves - who dedicate their time and energy

to making the Santa Sleigh a success.

"I also want to extend a special thanks to my fellow organisers, Kelly Bennett, Andy Palazon and Dave Wilson.

"Their enthusiasm and dedication are what make this project come to life each year."

Joe was also keen to acknowledge the support of businesses and organisations, whose contributions help maintain and improve the sleigh, as well as cover essential costs such as the PRS licence.

A special thank you, he added, also goes to Drive Green Vehicle Services, 41 Club, Thrive Hub, and Kedington Parish Council for their generous backing.

Henry Wilson MBE, the CEO at REACH, said of the donation: "The Santa Sleigh is a win for all; a win for

families, a win for the community, and a win for the families REACH support.

"At a time of year when most people find themselves stretched, I'm amazed that so many people have volunteered their precious time to bring this joyous event to others in the community.

"Children love it, parents love it, volunteers like doing it and people are incredibly generous, which means REACH can continue to support local families."

Denise and Sean Tarrant, from the Joshua Tarrant Trust, said: "It has been wonderful to be involved with this fantastic family event again this year.

"We are forever grateful for every donation received from the generous supporters of Haverhill and Kedington."

Owner of damaged car wins his claim against county council

From Page 1.

"Judgements in courts and inquiries often end with judges and coroners making recommendations to the parties to address the points raised in court.

"While it is optimistic that had it gone to court a district judge in the small claims court would have told ECC to review their

inspection frequency it would at least have driven my argument out into court.

"While I have put that argument to ECC (and it may be part of or the main reason for them settling) I doubt it will lead to any action from the ECC.

"So I get settlement, but it doesn't help the next person who suffers damage on that road

because of road defects.

"Those people would have to go through the same time costly procedure as I have to get any form of justice."

ECC agreed to pay Mr Connolly £185, covering the £123 he paid for the tyre and his court costs.

The settlement agreement that he signed says: "I hereby accept the sum of £185 in full and final

settlement of my claim for damages against Essex County Council arising out of the incident on 31 December, 2023."

Having settled his claim, Mr Connolly said: "Ultimately while I have got a result (despite the time and effort far exceeding the value of my claim), nothing changes." ECC has been approached for comment.