

NEWS RELEASE

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THE PACKING SHED CELEBRATES

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Local charity, The Packing Shed Trust on Mersea Island, is celebrating receiving a cheque for £1,731 from local grantmaking charitable trust, Essex Community Foundation.

The current Packing Shed was built in the 1890s to support the cleaning and sorting of Mersea Native oysters which were being sent to London and exported to Europe. When the industry collapsed in the 1950's the Shed was used for storage and consequently fell into disrepair. In 1990 a group of volunteers led a successful restoration programme which saw the landmark Packing Shed restored to its former glory and opened to the public in 1992.

Today, the Shed is managed by the Packing Shed Trust, led by a Committee of local volunteers, and is used for a variety of outdoor activities including overnight camping, bird watching, art classes, birthday parties, wedding receptions and other special occasions.

The grant from Essex Community Foundation will enable them to replace the outboard engine in the passenger ferry, which finally expired after 15 years faithful service.

Paddy Ryan, Trustee of the Packing Shed Trust said "We were so pleased to receive this grant as the Ferry is crucial to us being able to take visitors out to the Shed for events and open days. We can't thank the Foundation enough".

Essex Community Foundation is a local grantmaking charitable trust which manages funds on behalf of individuals, companies, charitable trusts and public agencies who want their charitable giving to support local people. The Foundation currently manages 38 Funds and since it was established in 1996, around 3,000 grants totalling £11 million have been distributed to charities in Essex.

For more information about Essex Community Foundation, how to apply for a grant, deadline dates for applications and how to establish a Charitable Fund visit the Foundation's website www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk or call 01245 356018.

For information about the Packing Shed, open days and volunteer activities visit www.packing-shed.org.uk

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Notes to Editors:

Photo Caption: Andrew Clarke and Jo Murphy from Essex Community Foundation present Paddy Ryan and David Green with a cheque for £1,731 to replace the outboard engine in the Packing Shed Trust's passenger ferry.

Essex Community Foundation was set up in 1996 and has established a grants programme which has seen 3000 Essex based charities and community groups receive £11million in grants. Funds are distributed on behalf of a wide range of donors who want their charitable giving to be accessible to local charities. www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk

For more information visit www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk