

Finance and General Purposes Committee – 26th February 2024

Grant Reports Received

In accordance with our terms and conditions, grant recipients are required to submit a report detailing how funds are spent.

Please find attached the reports indicated below.

	Organisation	Purpose	Grant Award	Committee & Date	Report Attached
1	Hi Kent	Free hearing aid clinics	1,000	F&GP 27.02.23	Yes
2	Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport	Costs to help continue the service	750	F&GP 27.02.23	To Follow
3	West Kent Mediation	Volunteer costs, hall hire, publicity	800	F&GP 27.02.23	Yes
4	Friends of Pontoise	Building and expanding links between Sevenoaks and Pontoise and promoting understanding of life and culture in the two towns.	350	F&GP 27.02.23	Yes
5	Friends of Rheinbach	Publicity, hire of premises and administrative costs.	250	F&GP 27.02.23	Yes
6	Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival	Hire of performance space	600	F&GP 27.02.23	Yes
7	Sevenoaks Literary Festival	Annual schools' event as part of Festival	500	F&GP 27.02.23	Yes
8	South East Open Studios	Posters & promotion	250	F&GP 27.02.23	Yes
9	Art in June	Publishing costs of guidebooks	250	F&GP 27.02.23	Yes
10	Kent Youth Jazz Orchestra	Youth Jazz Workshop	500	F&GP 27.02.23	Yes
11	Youth Resilience UK	Mental Health Awareness Workshops	1,600	F&GP 27.02.23	Yes
12	Sevenoaks PHAB	Towards running costs of group and activities	450	F&GP 27.02.23	Yes
13	Children's Workshop	Items to enhance garden	540	F&GP 27.02.23	Yes
14	Sevenoaks Counselling	To supplement the Bursary Fund which assists clients	2000	F&GP 02.10.23	Yes

Finance and General Purposes Committee – 26th February 2024

		who are unable to afford the recommended contribution.			
15	Baby Umbrella	Funding to serve 65 x 1:1 support appointments	2600	F&GP 02.10.23	Yes
16	Sevenoaks Three Arts – Young Musician of the Year	Hire of a local school with a competition standard piano	600	YSC – 07.09.23	Yes
17	Sevenoaks District Scouts	Venue costs to host an event for each of Beavers, Cubs & Scouts groups in Sevenoaks District.	1,335 (free room hire)	YSC – 07.09.23	To Follow
18	Sevenoaks District Scouts	Purchase of litter pickers	250	YSC – 07.09.23	To Follow



Sevenoaks Town Council report for Hi Kent Grant

Hi Kent received a grant of £1,000 from Sevenoaks Town Council in October 2023, and is most grateful for the Town Council's continued support.

This vital support enabled Hi Kent to run our free Hearing Aid Support Clinics with no appointment necessary at Hollybush Court, Hollybush Lane, Sevenoaks TN13 3UX, once a month on every second Friday from 10.00am to 11.30 am, on these dates in 2023:

13 January, 10 February, 10 March, 14 April, 12 May, 9 June, 14 July, 8 September, 13 October, 10 November, 8 December.

The dates for our Hearing Aid Support Clinics in 2024 will be:

12 January, 9 February, 8 March, 12 April, 10 May, 14 June, 12 July, 13 August, 11 October, 8 November and 13 December

We see between 20 to 35 clients a month, and these numbers are steadily increasing, and we are helping well over 200 clients annually. Each clinic session is open for 1.5 hours but our long-standing volunteers are happy to extend this time if needed to ensure that each client receives the time and attention they deserve.

The Grant has benefitted those people living in Sevenoaks Town Council Wards of Wildernesse, Town, Northern, St John's, Eastern and Kippington who are living with a hearing loss and require expert help to look after their NHS hearing aids in order that they work effectively for them. Hearing Aids that are regularly maintained and work well give the wearer more confidence in their ability to cope better with everyday life and enjoy social situations in the knowledge that their aids help them pick up the sounds/pitches that they have lost.

Having such a local service means that clients do not have to travel to a central NHS Audiology Department, which often incurs travel and parking expenses and sometimes waiting time. Our services are offered free of charge and no appointment is needed. Our trained volunteers can clean, re-tube the aids and fit new batteries as well as offering advice on other free Hi Kent Services. Our volunteers often have a hearing loss themselves so understand the challenges that have to be faced when this vital sense is lost or partially lost.

We are also able to organise free of charge home visits for people in Sevenoaks who are housebound or too frail or ill to attend the Hollybush clinic, at which our trained volunteers provide the same hearing aid maintenance service that would be received at the clinic.

Hi Kent also runs a monthly free clinic, which is not open to the general public, but is provided on every second Friday between 1.15pm and 2.45pm, for the residents of the assisted living facility at Rockdale House, Rockdale Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1JT. These clinics provide the hearing aid support service by our trained volunteers who clean, re-tube the aids and fit new batteries, and during the past year we have provided this help to between 7 and 11 residents at each clinic.

With the Town Council's grant Hi Kent has been able to continue to offer our services free of charge in the Sevenoaks Town area as the grant has funded the cost of Hearing Aid maintenance equipment for the volunteers, volunteers' travel expenses and local advertising.

Liz Clayton
Grants Manager
Hi Kent

December 2023



The funding provided by the Sevenoaks Town Council (STC) has enabled West Kent Mediation (WKM) to continue to provide free community mediation service to all the residents within STC. It allows our 25+ volunteer mediators to practice and use their skills to help the community in doing what they enjoy.

We have this year helped 13 households using the process of mediation, some cases lasting many months, and causing anti-social behaviour, cases can have an effect to the wider family, community and statutory organisations. WKM recognise that many people in our society experience discrimination or lack of opportunities for reasons that are not fair. Our aim is to ensure that all voices are equally heard.

We are bound by our confidentiality obligations but I can advise we carried out two family/parent teen mediations, one which we facilitated discussions to prevent a young person being made homeless. Four neighbour cases and one case which was a dispute that involved friends.

WKM are very proud of the working relations and partnerships we have with the three local authorities, the three main Housing Associations, Kent Police including PCSO's all of which make direct referrals to us. We attend the monthly Sevenoaks Volunteer forum meetings to publicise our service and share information with the voluntary sector.

We monitor and evaluate cases, and our work. We use the information from evaluations to help us to learn and make any necessary changes. We celebrate on our success, this may be by using quotes from clients that we have helped and putting them on our website or using them in social media posts. We learn from things that may not have gone so well by supervision with our mediators and regular support meetings. We have regular staff and Trustee meetings, and always talk to our statutory referrers.

Amanda Bell

Chief Executive Officer

January 2024

West Kent Mediation

F&GP Grant of £350 awarded to Friends of Pontoise in 2023

In May 2023, members of Pontoise Les Amis de Sevenoaks were our guests for a four-day visit. The grant enabled us to give generous hospitality to them including a Gala Dinner to which the Mayor of Sevenoaks and her consort attended as our guests. The photo below was taken during the visit outside the Bat & Ball Station.



Two large canvases of this photo have been made with a brass inscription “60th Anniversary 1964 -2024”. One will be presented to the Mayor of Sevenoaks in February when she is our guest with her consort at our New Year Lunch. The other will go to the Mayor of Pontoise when we visit in May 2024.

Ten 60th Anniversary enamel mug gifts have been afforded by the grant.

In February 2023, the Mayor and her consort were guests at our New Year lunch. Our raffle there raised £208 which was donated to the Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal. The year before, our raffle raised £250 which was donated to the British Red Cross Ukraine Appeal.

Our website, friendsofpontoise.com has the Sevenoaks Town Council’s logo at the top of the first page. To maintain this website cost us £294.48 for 2024/25

We will attend the Annual Town Meeting on 11th March 2024

With regards and thanks

Evy Drew Co-Chair

Michael Pembrey Co-Chair/Sec/Treasurer

www.friendsofpontoise.com

email: friendsofpontoise@gmail.com

Annual Report to Sevenoaks Town Council – January 2024

As a result of the pandemic and its aftermath, the Sevenoaks Town Council grant awarded to Friends of Rheinbach in 2022 was underspent. The Council agreed to Friends of Rheinbach's suggestion that the balance of that grant be carried forward into the following year, as a result of which a grant was not applied for in 2023. The original objectives for use of the 2022 grant were, thus, fulfilled.

Our activities returned to a more normal pattern in 2023 although participation did not fully reach pre-pandemic levels due to a combination of factors including substantial cost rises and continuing anxiety regarding infection risks amongst an ageing membership.

June saw a very welcome resumption of exchange visits to Rheinbach. However, our traditional method of travel – by private hire coach – proved unviable due to the substantial increase in costs arising from both general inflation and much higher fuel charges. This had some effect on the number travelling with 13 members making the trip, travelling by rail or car. A compensating benefit was the opportunity to extend our stay from the traditional two full days to three, a change that was well received on both sides and is likely to become the norm for future exchanges.



Left: a guided tour of some historic sites in Rheinbach led by the Town Archivist.

Right: members of both Friends of Rheinbach and Freunde von Sevenoaks assembled for a farewell dinner at the end of the visit.



Other activities included a traditional dinner early in the year, a Spring walk with lunch and a social gathering following the AGM in November. On the other hand, a cultural event scheduled for August had to be postponed because insufficient members were available to attend at that time.

Friends of Rheinbach faces the challenge of an ageing membership, some of whom are moving away from the Sevenoaks area to spend their final years closer to family in other parts of the country. For that reason, a priority for the year ahead is to increase awareness of our partnership with Rheinbach and to use that as a basis for attempting to rebuild membership.

The Town Council was a co-signatory of the Charter of Friendship and Co-operation that underpins our links with Rheinbach and we view that relationship as a cornerstone of initiatives to secure the benefits of twinning for the long term. As recent examples of this in practice, we have been very grateful for the proactive support in areas of publicity and promotion received from our newly appointed Council representative, Cllr. Dixon, and for the Council's agreement to help us build awareness through an advertisement in their widely distributed 'Town Crier' publication.



Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival

Registered Charity No 1031815

FESTIVAL REPORT to SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL

The 2023 Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival, our 73rd Festival, was held over two weekends in June at Walthamstow Hall Senior School. This was our second live festival after the two video festivals held during the pandemic. Entries were 32% higher than in 2022 and actually exceeded, slightly, those of 2019, the festival before the pandemic. Across the 4 days some 700 children and 75 Adults participated. We were particularly pleased to see an increase in entries from school orchestras and ensembles, as well as the usual choir and drama groups; the festival provides an opportunity for many children to have their first experience of performing in public. There were three full days of Vocal, Speech & drama and Piano classes; one day each for Strings, Wind and Accordion classes. The venue, Walthamstow Hall Senior School has excellent facilities, offering a range of pianos, performance spaces, practice rooms and refreshment areas.

The final event, the Prizewinners' Concert and presentation of awards, took place a week later on Saturday 24th June. We were delighted that the Mayor, Cllr Claire Shea was an official guest and presented the Awards. The audience was treated to a feast of entertainment, demonstrating the variety and high standards reached across the age ranges.

We are exceedingly grateful to Sevenoaks Town Council for its grant of £600, applied toward the cost of the venue and pianos.

Susan Day

Festival Secretary



Animal Magic on a Monday morning
Report on
Sevenoaks Town Council Grant
received by
Sevenoaks Literary Festival (2023)

For many years **Sevenoaks Town Council** has generously sponsored the annual Schools Event as an integral part of **Sevenoaks Literary Festival**. This sponsorship, combined with additional finance from Festival funds, enables the holding of the yearly Schools Event for primary school children in Sevenoaks.

Over 400 hundred children from four primary schools in Sevenoaks town gathered on the morning of Monday 16 October at **Sevenoaks Primary**. Listening with rapt attention to the renowned children's author Piers Torday, described by *The Times* as 'the new master of books for children', their ready engagement brought the 2023 Literary Festival to an enthusiastic and fittingly forward-looking finale.

Perhaps Piers' most well-known books are those in his *Last Wild* trilogy. This is a powerful collection of stories taking a boy who can communicate with animals on an epic journey to save wildlife from the destructive actions of humans.

Despite sitting cross-legged for over an hour on the floor of the school hall, the children were, as they always are, a model audience. Transfixed by the stories told by Piers about how he came to be an author and about the magic of reading, they responded eagerly to his discussions with them.

The wide range of knock-on effects of the Event in terms of literacy can only be imagined. It is especially for this reason that the Festival is particularly grateful to Sevenoaks Town Council for its support. And it is for this reason too that the annual Schools Event forms a vital part of Sevenoaks Literary Festival.

The Schools Event provided the very best finale to the Festival as well as its largest single audience during what was an extremely successful 2023 Festival held at various venues within the town. Along with the Town Council's sponsorship, the Festival was supported, as ever, by **Sevenoaks Bookshop** and, for a second year, by a range of local commercial sponsors.

Next year's Festival - the 23rd - is already being planned. It will include the Schools Event of course and will be held as usual during the Autumn. More information may be found on the Festival's website

www.sevlitfest.com

Roger Lee
Sevenoaks Literary Festival
04 January 2024



11 January 2024

Alison Futtit
Senior Committee Clerk
Sevenoaks Town Council
Town Council Offices
Bradbourne Vale Road
SEVENOAKS, Kent TN13 3QG

Dear Alison Futtit,

Report on Grant Award from Sevenoaks Town Council 2023

I am writing on behalf South East Open Studios Sevenoaks to thank the Sevenoaks Town Council very much for their most generous grant award of £250. Although the original intention had been to use the grant to pay for the cost and location hire for banner sites, we subsequently were advised that the banner sites were not suitable, so our group of Sevenoaks artists decided to use the grant to cover the design, production and printing costs of our Artists Trail Map for Sevenoaks instead. This Trail Map covered the Sevenoaks Town wards of Kippington, Town, Eastern and Wilderness and showed the location of the Artists' Studios with photographs of examples of their work and the Sevenoaks Town Council logo (please see attached photo).

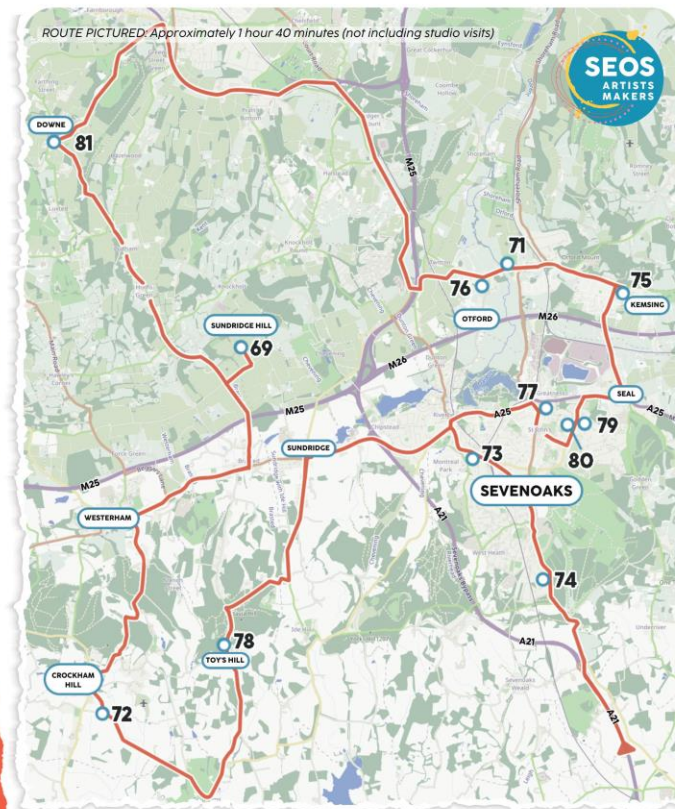
The Sevenoaks Town section of South East Open Studios attracted over 300 'repeat' and first time visitors, but overall there were over 700 visitors in the Sevenoaks District area which raised interest in all of the visual arts.

The Sevenoaks Artists Trail map had 2000 copies printed of A4 colour double-sided and were handed out together with the South East Open Studios Guides in the Sevenoaks section of which 30,000 were printed overall.

These South East Open Studio Guides plus Sevenoaks Artists' Trail Maps were handed out at The Stag Theatre, Sevenoaks Station and Sevenoaks Library just before the start of our Open Studios event in June 2023. Sevenoaks artists also distributed more to local shops, Leisure Centres, Schools, Pubs, Restaurants, Dentists and hairdressers etc. This raised the profile of both South East Open Studios and the support we received from Sevenoaks Town Council.

South East Open Studios promotes visual arts including 2D and 3D artwork and brings awareness of the many processes involved helping new visitors to be inspired. Feedback from participating artists included: "I enjoy meeting Art enthusiasts and people from all walks of life who visit our Art Studios. During June we throw open our doors and have great fun greeting visitors and explaining our art as part of South East Open Studios, a well known and professional enterprise". We thank the Sevenoaks Town Council very much for their continued support.

Yours Sincerely
 Frances Wells
 Sevenoaks Area coordinator for South East Open Studios



STUDIO 69: Shootfield Studios

Shootfield Studios, Shootfield Cottage, Pilgrims Way, Sundridge, Kent, TN14 6AP
 w3w ///chinoses.gives

Sarah Bourne, Mosaic Mum: Fun and functional sculptures made from combining vintage ceramics with found objects to create contemporary mosaics with a nostalgic twist. Unique range of stylish mosaic pendants, for all occasions.
Peter Wilbroe: Peter's work is inspired by coastal and inland scenery throughout the British Isles. Peter works mainly in oil and acrylic paint on canvas.

STUDIO 71: Ann Bridges

58 High Street, Otford, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN14 5PO

w3w ///holds.wisdom.clues

Observational drawing is the starting point for Ann Bridges' original-prints, stencil-based paintings, sketchbooks and greetings cards. Subject matter includes ponds, plants and collections of objects.

STUDIO 72: Dennetts Studio

Dennetts Studio, Dennetts Land Road, Crockham Hill, near Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 6RU

w3w ///mouse loaf pills

Annette Lyons Fine Art: Annette's work ranges from landscapes, nudes, animals and still life. She paints & draws directly from life subjects that inspire her through nature, colour & narrative. She works in a variety of media.

Brendan Cullen: Brendan Cullen works mostly in stone; his recent personal works investigate naturally occurring shapes that occur in relative lines and forms as well as a sense of movement in a static material.

STUDIO 73: 4 Stapleford Court

4 Stapleford Court, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 2LB

w3w ///packetsilver.tasty

Margaret Devitt: Margaret Devitt's exploratory, expressive work in oils, oil and cold wax, mixed media, collage and printmaking ranges from figurative to abstract.

Victoria Lucas Roberts: Abstract art form using both Effetre and Bullseye glass.

STUDIO 74: 41 The Rise

41 The Rise, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1RQ

w3w ///pills.gossip.deaf

Frances Wells, Potter on the Rise: Frances Wells enjoys stimulation from Nature for her designs in Raku, Stoneware and Porcelain ceramics/pottery.

Debbie Lowe, D.I. Jewellery: Debbie is a Metal Clay Artist and instructor. Her jewellery combines Metal Clay with dichroic glass, enamelling and semi-precious stones. Inspiration comes from nature and is influenced by Art Deco.

STUDIO 75: 20 Copperfields

20 Copperfields, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 6QC

w3w ///play.cave.bells

Pamela Milne: Pamela paints vibrant, bold, abstract, water colours, illustrating the underlying patterns of life.

Jenny Cooper: Jenny paints in acrylics, water colour and water-soluble oils. Recently she has been experimenting with gouache. Her subjects are landscapes and nature.

Christine Johnson: Christine paints with water mixable oils and draws inspiration from eclectic subjects - often birds, animals and dancers.

SENOAKS TRAIL MAP

SEOS 2023, 2-18 JUNE

STUDIO 76: Jane Mucklow

23 Willow Park, Otford, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN14 5ND

w3w ///remind.moons.appear

Jane Mucklow: photographs local Kent landscapes, trees and flowers, capturing the changing light and seasons, often the little details, to bring you joy. Prints, greetings cards, jigsaws, calendars.

STUDIO 77: Sally Layne Art

89 Wickenden Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3PN

w3w ///scores.cars.candy

Sally Layne: is a Sevenoaks based artist & musician specialising in figurative art and portraiture. She expresses her love of music through her painting and is inspired by dance of all genres.

STUDIO 78: Beechwood Gallery

Beechwood Gallery, Beechwood, Toys Hill, Nr Westerham, Kent, TN16 1QG

w3w ///sharks.silent.broke

Sue Houghton: Sue paints mainly in oils and acrylics. Her works are filled with colour and texture, inspired by coast and countryside and eclectic still life subjects. She has exhibited in several Kent galleries.

Anna Clement: Anna paints an eclectic mix of subjects in colourful oils - things that she finds beautiful, in the hope that the joy she gets from them can be passed on to the viewer of the painting.

STUDIO 79: Eildon

Eildon, Seal Hollow Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3SF

w3w ///lummy.studio.loaded

Carole Aston Designs: Carole is a printmaker but also works in watercolour, acrylics and mixed media.

Lesley Hall: Handmade jewellery, pet portraits, botanical paintings and photography.

STUDIO 80: Burnt Ash Ceramics

38 Wildernes Mount, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3QS

w3w ///views.fixed.senses

Annie: Form and surface are important to Annie, to create a base for organic patterns inspired by her love of north Norfolk and created by smoke and raku firing.

STUDIO 81: Tracey Gregory Glass Art

22 High Street, Downe, Kent, BR6 7UT

w3w ///leaves.saints.loved

Tracey: Glass Artist working in fused glass, captivated by the beauty of glass, spending time researching, experimenting & creating glass art. Tracey enjoys sharing knowledge and teaching in adult education.

Studio opening days & times vary.
 See guide & website: seos-art.org



SEOS 2023 Guide

SCAN ME



ART IN JUNE
OPEN STUDIOS
www.artinjune.org

Ms. Alison Futtit
Committee Clerk
Sevenoaks Town Council
Bradbourne Vale Road
Sevenoaks, Kent
TN13 3QG

14, January, 2024

Dear Alison Futtit,

Report on Grant Award from Sevenoaks Town Council, 2023

I am writing on behalf of Art in June, Open Studios to thank the Sevenoaks Town Council very much for their most generous grant award of £250 towards the costs of our Art in June guide book for 2023.

The grant helped us with the costs of printing 12,500 guide books, all of which were distributed by our participating artists throughout the local area in shops, cafes, waiting rooms; as well as libraries and other public spaces. They were very much in demand, with some venues requesting repeat refills of our booklet dispensers.

Once more, we thanked Sevenoaks Town Council and featured the logo on the booklet cover. Michael Roberts attended the Annual Town Meeting in order to demonstrate to the general public how the grant funds had been spent in 2022 year.

Numbers were up all round with 68 artists exhibiting in 18 studios. Visitors numbers were up as well. Most studios reported higher attendance than previously: with some large 'hubs' welcoming 800 and more to see the paintings and craft works on display,

We also had a number of firsts:

Our first pre-show group exhibition at the Kaleidoscope Gallery highlighted the quality of the artworks in the event.

Highlighting environmental concerns, we created our first bike trail in the area around Hever and Chiddingstone. This was a surprising hit with the cyclists who tried it and the intention is to create bike trails across the entire area for the coming June.

This was the first year where we emphasized visitor participation by increasing the number of workshops and demonstrations on offer and this is something else we are going to expand for 2024. Some free, some reasonably priced; 26 workshops were offered and we intend to double that and more next year.

The yellow bikes and bunting were out in force all over the area, together with our eye-catching banners. They created a bright and festive air, which we will see even further enhanced this coming June.

Yours sincerely,

Georgina Roberts,
Art in June Co-ordinator

Report to Sevenoaks Town Council - Use of Grant Report

- Kent Youth Jazz Orchestra(KYJO) - Youth Jazz Workshop in 2023

**FREE
YOUTH
Jazz
WORKSHOP**
Tuesday 20 June
7pm ~ 9:30pm
with a Mini-Concert
9.00 ~ 9.30pm.



Celebrity Tutor Steve Waterman
Weald of Kent Grammar School
163 Seal Hollow Road, Sevenoaks TN13 3SN
Young musicians with an interest in playing an exciting mix of Jazz standards, Jazz-Rock & Jazz-Funk are invited to join **Kent Youth Jazz Orchestra** in an open rehearsal led by celebrated Guest Tutor trumpeter **Steve Waterman**.
Admission FREE for more information and to register, please email KYJO kentyouthjazzorchestra@gmail.com
#ideal for Young People from Grade 4 and above on ...
SAXOPHONE TROMBONE BASS FLUTE
GUITAR DRUMS TRUMPET
KEYS PERCUSSION

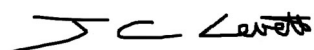
KYJO
KENT YOUTH
JAZZ
ORCHESTRA

Sponsored by
Sevenoaks
town council


KYJO
KENT YOUTH
JAZZ
ORCHESTRA

www.kyjo.co.uk

The Youth Jazz Workshop was held at Weald of Kent Grammar School on Tuesday 20th June 2023. Thirty three young musicians benefited from the Workshop that was run by Celebrity Guest Tutor Steve Waterman. The Workshop was followed by a short concert demonstrating what had been learnt for the benefit of the players to realise what they had achieved, and for the enjoyment of their parents and guardians. All the publicity acknowledged the sponsorship of The Sevenoaks Town Council.



John Levett, KYJO Chairman

Kent Youth Jazz Orchestra *Big Band - Swing - Latin - Funk*

www.kyjo.co.uk

KYJO
KENT YOUTH
JAZZ
ORCHESTRA

Registered Charity: 1149477

Patrons: **Steve Waterman & Derek Nash**

Sevenoaks Town Council - Community funding report

Award

Youth Resilience UK were lucky to be awarded funding to run a series of mental health sessions for local people from the Sevenoaks Town region. We initially set out to deliver 3 Mental health awareness sessions and 2 courses of the Youth Mental Health first aid Champions to raise awareness of mental health in the community and improve skills around supporting themselves and others.

Thanks to this award we were also able to get some match funding from other sources that allowed us to run a larger project that reached even more people that we had initially hoped for.

Mental Health Awareness

We delivered 3 sessions of Mental Health Awareness for young people that were attending Orchards School and were showing signs of mental distress.

In these sessions we presented to 52 pupils and 80% of these young people had issues of neuro divergence including ADHD and Autism which were causing them extreme mental health problems.

The training sessions included understanding stress, identifying mental health problems and supporting these for themselves and others as well as greater knowledge around what sources they can access for help.

The young people demonstrated the following improvements:

- 5% increase in levels of Wellbeing
- 22% increase in knowledge on how to manage stress factors
- 38% increased confidence in getting support
- 12% reduction in feeling of stress and low mood

Some of feedback from the young people included:

- *The staff were great and listened to us and our needs*
- *I enjoyed being open about my problems and not being judged for them*
- *I learned a lot about social media and how dangerous some apps can be for my mental health*
- *I feel so much better about talking to staff for some help and support*
- *Its nice to know I don't have to be the same as everyone else and this has helped me so much*
- *This is so helpful and should be offered to all students and we all want to do more work on mental health*

Mental Health First Aid

We delivered a Youth MHFA on Zoom over two days that was available free of charge for anyone living in the Sevenoaks Town Council area and had 13 adults complete this training.

This training included understanding stress, anxiety, depression, psychosis, suicide, eating disorders and self-harm and how to support young people that are experiencing difficulties around these

areas. We also trained these people in how to support someone that has reached crisis point with their mental health so that the danger is reduced and recovery is quicker and has a greater chance of success.

13 people became qualified MH First Aiders offering support in their community and their evaluation forms showed the following average impact

- 35% increased understanding around mental health and the causes
- 33% increased confidence in being able to provide support for a young person with mental health problems
- 100% rating for the course content and instructor
- *My overall experience of this course is excellent! The instructor was very knowledgeable, passing on invaluable practical skills and advice on supporting young people with mental health difficulties. I feel I have learnt so much I can transfer into my role as a young persons mentor and recommend this course to anyone that works with young people.*
- *Jame was absolute fantastic, i had a little knowledge on how to support MH and now i feel like i am bursting with strategies and support for our youths and even some adults. i thoroughly enjoyed the course and James was brilliant.*

We delivered a Youth MHFA Champions course on one day at Knole Academy for their 16+ students who would then go on to support all students within the school with mental health issues as required.

Feedback from the 12 students undertaking that training showed the following impact.

- 12 newly qualified MHFA Youth Champions
- 37% increased knowledge and understanding of mental health
- 36% increased confidence in supporting a young person with mental health needs
- 100% rating for the course content and the instructor.
- *It has opened up my eyes up to how big mental health is and the importance and the effect it can have on you regardless to whether it is a condition or just an episode of feeling low. It's helped me realise that you have to be mentally healthy before helping other people and I strongly think this course has helped me realise that opening up and talking about things however big or little they are is important for your own well-being.*
- *Good to know about most topics that most course overlook because they're too "sensitive", learnt a lot on how to help others and how to help myself at the same time.*

We delivered an Youth MHFA Champions course over two sessions that was available free of charge to anyone living in the Sevenoaks Town Council area.

Feedback from the 14 people undertaking that training showed the following impact.

- 14 newly qualified MHFA Youth Champions
- 18% increased knowledge and understanding of mental health
- 23% increased confidence in supporting a young person with mental health needs
- 100% rating for the course content and the instructor.
- *I felt the trainer, kept everyone captured in his talk and was delivered with passion and with a way that everyone would be able to understand what he was trying to explain. for me the*

section on Self Harm was very interesting and the Grounding area with the 5 things to talk about with the patient.

- *The training was informative and very detailed in content. It was really beneficial to have a detailed break down of the mental health problems that many people face, the stigmas surrounding them and a range of approaches and strategies to support those who need help and advice. James was an excellent instructor - very personable and a fountain of knowledge*

Summary

We found that there was a very high demand for these sessions and that young people, in particular want to learn more about mental health and how they support themselves and those around them as they hold far less stigma in talking about this subject.

We could have delivered the MH Awareness sessions in multiple schools had the funding been available as the demand was far greater than what we had funding to provide, even with the increase match funding we secured.

REPORT FOR SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL
from
PHAB

Sevenoaks PHAB is very grateful for the donation of £400 given to the club by the Town Council. This was awarded to help pay the weekly rent for Mencap Hall where the weekly sessions take place. PHAB has held 42 sessions throughout 2023, each session costing £15 per week in rent. The £400 grant has helped considerably towards the £630 which we have paid to Mencap for the use of their hall during 2023.

The organisation, PHAB, inspires and supports disabled and non disabled children and adults to make the most of life together. An average attendance of 35 emphasises the need for the group. Most of the participants have a physical and/or learning disability. A variety of activities are offered to the participants and the regular attendances indicates these are pitched at an enjoyable level. Receiving the grant from the town council has taken away the stress of paying the rent and reverted our resources to offer an even wider programme. As one carer said 'PHAB allows the participants to enjoy, be themselves with no-one judging them in a safe environment'

In addition to offering a programme for our members PHAB has provided two students with valuable volunteer experience which in turn has contributed to a successful outcome for their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. To observe these students gaining confidence during this 3 month placement has been very rewarding. Surprisingly and quickly they understood the participants difficulties and as a result were able to support them when needed appropriately.

For one of these students this experience also provided evidence to gain a new skill which is another part of the award. He began to appreciate that the majority of members are unable to read. He prepared a document in Widgit to aid understanding and communication. The members who use this format were able to comprehend the content and were excited that they were able to understand the content.

PHAB has been working with a member of the NHS team to ensure medical facilities are adhering to the Accessible Information Standards. The Widgit document compiled by the Duke of Edinburgh student is being used as an example of an alternative format for those with a learning disability. The member of the NHS team has also attended PHAB so that he could gain an understanding of the communication needs of the group. If PHAB had not receive financial help from the grant and as a consequence had to close due to lack of funds then this opportunity for understanding the communication needs of those with a learning disability would not of happened.

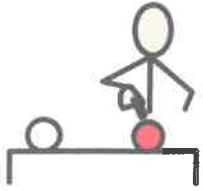
PHAB gives opportunities for volunteering and this year we have recruited two new volunteers. One of these volunteers came initially to make a film of the activities of the group to be used in March to demonstrate the work of PHAB at the Annual Town Meeting. The participants gave their consent to allow photography and her attendance every week gives an insight into the activities, happiness and enjoyment of the members. The photographer enjoyed her experience so much she is one of the two new recruits.

PHAB cannot thank the Town Council for their grant, it is much appreciated.
Rosalynde Ward. 04/01/2024

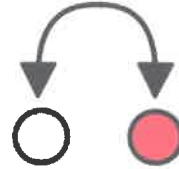
AUTUMN TERM 2023

August 15th	Eyes Down
August 22nd	Jazz and Jigsaws
August 29th	A Night with Vicky & Graham
September 5th	Boccia
September 12th	Fish and Chip Supper
September 19th	Aboriginal Art
September 26th	Elvis is coming!
October 3rd	Still Life
October 10th	Boccia
October 17th	Graham entertains
October 24th	NO PHAB - HALF TERM
October 31st	A Spooky Night with Vicky & Graham
November 7th	Scatterpack can we cope!
November 14th	Art and Craft
November 21st	Boccia
November 28th	A Surprise Evening!
December 4th <u>MONDAY</u>	CAROL SERVICE at St Luke's Church. TN13 1XT Starts at 7pm could you be there by 6.30 please
December 12th	Christmas Party

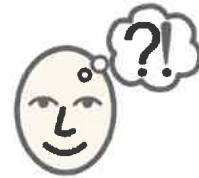
HAPPY CHRISTMAS
SEE YOU ON JANUARY 9TH 2024



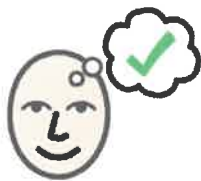
This is an example of a



Widgit document which helps



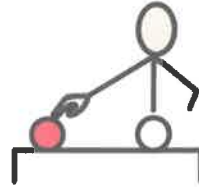
people with a learning disability



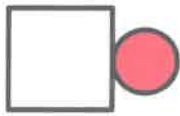
to understand the written word



which is one way of



communication that might be



used by the NHS

GRANT RECIPIENT: The Children's Workshop Preschool

GRANT AMOUNT: £540.00



PURPOSE OF GRANT (WHAT AND WHEN YOU WILL BE USING THE GRANT):

Wish to purchase – Rope Climbing Crest and Obstacle Starter Pack

As an Ofsted registered preschool and charity, the grant funds have been gratefully received and have been used in line with the grant request. This impact report uses Ofsted's approach to demonstrating educational impact and aims to highlight to Sevenoaks Town Council the impact of their grant on the children of the preschool who are residents of Sevenoaks Town.

OVERVIEW OF PRESCHOOL

We are a friendly preschool for children aged 2-5 based in a purpose-built building, situated in the beautiful woodland at the edge of Knole Park. We work together, children, staff, parents, carers, and the wider community to ensure our children learn and have fun in a nurturing environment that allows them to explore the world they live in and build happy friendships and memories.

INTENT OF GRANT

Following the pandemic, it was important, and still is, to focus on the Prime Areas of the EYFS curriculum. For the purposes of this grant, we felt at the time it was significant to support the area of Physical Development. The EYFS states the following within the curriculum:

Physical activity is vital in children's all-round development, enabling them to pursue happy, healthy, and active lives. By creating games and providing opportunities for play both indoors and outdoors, adults can support children to develop their core strength, stability, balance, spatial awareness, co-ordination, and agility. Gross motor skills provide the foundation for developing healthy bodies and social and emotional well-being.

Having removed all the wooden barriers in the garden in place during the pandemic, it was obvious we needed investment in the outdoor space for the children to enjoy a variety of equipment to build on their gross motor skills. Apart from a tyre hill with slide and a teepee to sit in, it was a spacious area, but relatively empty. We therefore identified that for the age group of 2-4 years, the equipment that would support the development of the children's gross motor skills was a rope climbing crest and an obstacle course. Both pieces of equipment we also wanted to be constructed using sustainable wood in line with our commitment to natural products and wood in the outdoor.

IMPLEMENTATION

The grant funds meant we were able to purchase the items. Unfortunately, the cost of the items had increased, so we fundraised for the remaining funds and were able to have them delivered and built in the outdoor space. The equipment was built by members of our Committee of Trustees and assessed for safety. The children were then shown how to use the equipment wisely, and the equipment now forms an integral part of our outdoor activities. For the rope climbing crest, as it remains outside throughout the year, we varnished it with yacht paint to keep the wood protected. The obstacle course is brought out each day from the shed and placed on the all-weather surface.

IMPACT

The impact of the equipment at the setting has been significant and has been specifically recognised in two principal areas:

- (i) **Increased confidence of children** – EVERY child that has first come across both pieces of equipment, has shown a sense of nervousness, particularly our 2yr old cohort. Through support from practitioners, the children have learnt how to climb the rope crest to the top, go over the top and down the other side. For the obstacle course, several children chose to avoid having a go as it looked difficult. However, again with the support of practitioners leading them over the obstacle course, EVERY child has now tried and is able to cross – with or without support.

Building on this, all children are now confident to use the equipment with some children choosing to sit

on top of the climbing crest to have a conversation, or to look through binoculars to spot wildlife and birds in the garden. With the obstacle equipment, a number of children have even repurposed the pieces to create additional outdoor climbing structures and recognise how the equipment can be repurposed for a new activity. This curiosity and this level of imagination is all part of increased confidence and as a setting, we recognise that engaging outdoor activities is crucial to this build in confidence.

- (ii) ***Increased stability, balance, coordination, and agility*** – particularly with our 2yr old cohort, as you exit the setting doors to the outdoor area, it requires negotiating down a number of steps. For some of our younger children, this can be a struggle and the obstacle equipment has been significant in supporting children as they negotiate up and down steps. For the older children, balance and coordination is building, but the children did not always recognise that holding your arms out helps you to balance. Instead, they would rather cling to a practitioner's hand. What the obstacle equipment has enabled these children to learn is balance and coordination. In addition, with the obstacle equipment not being very wide, having to put one foot in front of the other to move and not have feet side by side has been a challenge and felt unnatural for some children. Learning how to walk along the equipment has significantly impacted on learning how to do this. For the rope climbing crest to learn how to climb and hold on to the rope with hand over hand, this has been a fun way to work on coordination. The children are now so confident with the rope climbing crest, that they try to see how quickly they can get up and down. They enjoy role-modelling how to use it with the younger and new cohort and again, we find that they re-purpose the climbing crest for other activities. As it is in a triangular shape, the children sit inside like it is a wooden tent to sit in and create all sorts of games.

On behalf of the setting, the practitioners, and children alike, we thank you for the funds to purchase this equipment, it is now an integral part our outdoor provision and one that is used daily. As the equipment is wooden and in keeping with our approach you can see from the photo below that it is a natural addition to our outdoor area. We would welcome any member of the Council to visit us and have a go! The children will show you how to use it!





SEVENOAKS COUNSELLING - REPORT TO SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL - 2023-2024

Sevenoaks Counselling is very grateful to Sevenoaks Town Council for the grant aid support which it has continued to receive over a number of years. It has enabled Sevenoaks Town residents to benefit from professional counselling at an affordable price and for Sevenoaks Counselling to offer professional counselling at a much-reduced rate to residents who cannot afford the full recommended contribution for their counselling sessions.

We continue to offer in-person sessions to individuals, couples, and young people at our premises in Sevenoaks and also remotely by phone or video call to individuals who either cannot attend in person or who prefer to meet remotely. Over the past year this has included young parents with no childcare, people with access difficulties and residents whose working hours make attending in person challenging.

Our Treasurer notes that the average amount that clients felt able to pay for their counselling sessions remained on a par with the previous year's level. However, a 19% increase in the number of sessions provided, together with a 10% increase in costs, resulted in an operational deficit in our accounts of some £40,000. Although the level of grants and gifts from other sources increased marginally, the service still recorded a deficit of some £14,000 for the year.

If councillors have any questions or require further clarification of the information provided, would they kindly let me know.

Lucinda Wright
Trustee
February 2024

Report on Baby Umbrella grants



Baby Umbrella
Supporting your journey

Grants provided by Sevenoaks Town Council
for 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 tax year

Who is Baby Umbrella?

Baby Umbrella offers breastfeeding and early parenting support to families in West Kent. Our vision is for every family in West Kent to have access to skilled and compassionate support during their parenting journey. We are here to listen, support and empower parents to make the decisions that feel right for them and their babies.

The first year of parenting is a critical time for families and for infant development, building strength and resilience for the years to come. Support services for new families have shrunk dramatically over the past 20 years, and even more so during COVID. We are also seeing a crisis in Maternity Services, with severe staff pressures meaning that only 1% of services are rated outstanding by the CQC, and 40% requiring improvement for safety. The latest MBRRACE report found that maternal mortality has risen by 20% since 2017-19; with 86% of these deaths occurring postnatally and the leading cause of death being suicide. At this time, effective postnatal support from the third sector is absolutely crucial to support families' mental and physical health and wellbeing.



In the early days with a new baby, feeding problems are often urgent and overwhelming. 44% of our initial bookings are made within 7 days of birth, and 53% of referrals come from NHS midwifery. 48% of our visitors are in pain from feeding, 32% are struggling with babies not latching, 27% are worried about their baby's weight gain, and 26% are struggling with overwhelm, anxiety or tearfulness. Baby Umbrella provides a safe haven for these vulnerable families.

We thank Sevenoaks Town Council for your ongoing support for these vulnerable residents.

STC Specialist Support grant

Date provided: 4/10/23

Amount provided: £2,600

Project plan:

This grant will enable 65 Sevenoaks Town Council Resident families to receive 1-1 support with breastfeeding and early parenting (either face to face or on Zoom) over 6 months between October 2023 and March 2024. From our historic data this is the number of Sevenoaks Town Council resident families we tend to see in 6 months. Costs covered include specialist practitioner fees (Lactation Consultants and Breastfeeding Counsellors), venue costs and service support costs.

What we did:

This report covers the period of October to December 2023 so the project is only 50% completed. In this period we have been running weekly Specialist Support sessions in our venue in Otford where most of our STC resident beneficiaries are seen (though they also visit our Tonbridge venue and occasionally our Tunbridge Wells venue). We also see STC families over Zoom.

Who benefitted:

In the 3 months to 31 December 2023, we supported 35 STC resident families with specialist appointments in our face to face settings and 7 STC resident families via Zoom (32 of these appointments were covered with this grant). We are seeing approx 30% more STC families than anticipated and this is probably a reflection of our service becoming better known and used. We anticipate a similar number of STC resident families to visit us in the 3 months from Jan-24 to Mar-24.

Here are some recent quotes from our feedback form:

"Really helpful and amazed at how much we were able to improve things via a Zoom call!"

- Sevenoaks resident, Zoom appointment - September 2023

"Jani was so helpful, reassuring and most of all kind in listening to all of my concerns around feeding my baby since he has come home from special care. She showed such compassion towards me and offered lots of feeding advice and support particularly in positioning to help with a better latch! Really grateful for all her help and will definitely be going back to continue to gain support!"

- Sevenoaks resident, in person appointment - October 2023

"I am so grateful for the support of Baby Umbrella. I was unable to breastfeed my son and so when it came to my now infant daughter, I felt very anxious and unsure about breastfeeding. It was also causing me pain. I attended a 1-1 appointment with the lactation consultant and it has helped massively! I have been breastfeeding my daughter successfully since leaving the appointment. If I have any further issues, I feel confident that Baby Umbrella will be there to support me. Thank you so much."

- Sevenoaks resident, in person appointment - December 2023

Spending breakdown:

Specialist practitioner fees: Oct to Dec 2023	£757
Rent: Oct to Dec 2023	£112
Supervision and service support: Oct to Dec 2023	£550
Total:	£1,419

This is 54% of the funding we were provided and we anticipate spending the full provision by the end of March 2024.

**Thank you Sevenoaks Town Council, on behalf of all local parents,
for supporting our service.**

Sevenoaks Young Musician of the Year Competition 2023

This year's Sevenoaks Young Musician of the Year Competition took place at Walthamstow Hall Senior School on Sunday 5 March. Fifteen young instrumentalists, ranging in age from 12 to 21 – five pianists, four violinists, one cellist, two double bass players, a bassoonist, a saxophonist and a flautist, each gave a 15-minute recital in front of our two professional adjudicators, Alison Moncrieff-Kelly and Jeremy Carter, who commented on the impressively high standard of all the contestants.

The winner of the Sevenoaks Sound and Vision Prize of £1,000, and the title of Sevenoaks Young Musician of the Year 2023, was 20-year-old pianist **Xinge (Grace) Dong**, Chinese and currently studying at the RCM in London, who was also given the opportunity of a concerto performance with the Lydian Orchestra at their December concert. For her winning recital, Grace played pieces by Liszt and Tchaikovsky. The second prize, the Sevenoaks School Prize of £500, went to another 20-year-old, **Sofiia Matviienko** (flute) and third place was shared by 13-year-old pianist **Pei Lin (Oisin) Pu** and 12-year old **Kory Sheldunov**, who won the T.A. Craig Violins Prize of £200.

The Young Musician Competition, an important prestige event for Sevenoaks, has become a prominent part of the musical life of the town, and is extremely grateful to Sevenoaks Sound and Vision for its support in providing the money for the first prize this year; to Sevenoaks School and T.A Craig Violin Restorer for the second and third prizes; and to its other sponsors Sevenoaks Town Council, Sevenoaks Music Club and the Lydian Orchestra.

The four winners with judges Alison Moncrieff-Kelly and Jeremy Carter

