

Grant Reports Received

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

A number of grant awards were not able to be used in the current year due to the pandemic, updates are provided in the comment column.

Please find attached the reports indicated below.

	Organisation	Grant Ref No	Purpose	Grant Award	Date	Comment	Report Attached
1	Sevenoaks Summer Festival 2020	20	Core funding for 50 th anniversary summer festival to be held 20 th June to 5 th July 2020	£5000	25.11.19	Grant rolled forward for 2021 Festival	n/a
2	Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival		Hire of pianos and performance space for competitive classes and Prize-winner's concert	£600	12.02.20	Agreed grant could be used to meet alternative costs following the changing of the event to a digital based festival	Attached
3	Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival	06	Towards first prize in Sevenoaks Young Musician of the Year competition 2021	£600	14.09.20	Event cancelled – grant returned	n/a
4	Kent Youth Jazz Workshop	23	Towards cost of Youth Jazz Workshop at a local school in Sevenoaks. Free of charge for young musicians to attend	£500	02.03.20	Grant rolled forward to 2021	n/a
5	Sevenoaks Bookshop	59	Towards funding free open access entertainment for Young Readers Festival	£1750	02.03.20	Event cancelled, grant not paid	n/a
6	Art in June	12	Towards printing costs of 10,000 Guidebooks	£500	02.03.20	Grant rolled forward to 2021	Attached
7	Kent Painters Group	49	Towards printing of 20 A2 and 50 A3 re-usable correx road signs for Sevenoaks area	£200	02.03.20	Grant rolled forward to 2021	Attached
8	Sevenoaks Voluntary Transport	02	Towards running costs in year to 31 March 2021	£500	02.03.20		Attached

9	Friends of Pontoise	05	To build on and expand links between Sevenoaks and Pontoise; to promote understanding of French life and culture in Sevenoaks and of English life and culture in Pontoise	£250	02.03.20		Attached
10	Friends of Rheinbach	09	To support project – promoting new, active links between educational establishments, common interest societies and other relevant group and individuals across the two towns	£250	02.03.20	Part of Grant rolled forward to 2021	Attached
11	Sevenoaks 2020		Production of book of photographs, prints for charity shops, and market stalls. Also, towards exhibition advertising and hospitality costs.	£500	02.03.20		Attached
12	West Kent Mediation	17	Part funding: CPD meetings and training for volunteers, volunteer expenses, hall hire costs for mediation and volunteer training, contribution towards publicity materials	£750	02.03.20		Attached
13	Citizens Advice North West Kent	04	To expand scam awareness programme to Sevenoaks Town	£500	02.03.20	Agreed to repurposing grant to print 4000 leaflets to distribute to Sevenoaks Town residents and to Sevenoaks Town locations.	Attached
			To provide IT specialist support to create remote access to computers for experienced Sevenoaks	£611	16.04.20	Community Resilience Fund Grant	

			Town volunteers, thereby increasing advice giving capacity at this difficult time.				
14	Sevenoaks Literary Festival	03	Cost of speaker at annual free event for local schools: best-selling author to give talk and workshops.	£350	02.03.20	Grant rolled forward to 2021	Attached
15	Sevenoaks Vine CCC	61	Works necessary to return Vine outfield to useable and sustainable condition for all levels of cricket	Up to £16k	14.09.20		Attached
16	Sevenoaks Counselling Service	11	Supplement bursary fund which assists clients who cannot afford full cost of counselling.	£1500	14.09.20		Attached
17	PS Breastfeeding CIC	57	To continue to support parents struggling with breastfeeding, purchase of additional equipment. Provision of Babywearing Peer Supporter training for 10 existing volunteers and 5 new local parents. To pay for training, room rental & equipment, plus supervision and further enrichment for volunteers once trained	£780 £1000	31.03.20 14.09.20	Community Resilience Fund	Attached
18	Bradbourne Residents Association	42	Part fund purchase of a second heavy duty picnic table made from 100% recycled plastic.	£250	14.09.20		Attached
19	West Kent Mind		Towards continuing provision of free Skiffle Music Group face-to-face, maintaining social distancing guidelines, through current uncertain period	£900	23.11.20	Community Resilience Fund	Attached
20	Age UK Sevenoaks		To provide an emergency shopping	£2000	30.03.20	Community Resilience Fund	Attached

	and Tonbridge		fund for older people in Sevenoaks; and help with cost of regular phone calls to clients and expenses of volunteer befrienders.				
21	The Hygiene Bank		Purchase of essential hygiene products which will be delivered to their charity partners in Sevenoaks Town for distribution to those residents in need.	£1,500	17.04.20	Community Resilience Fund	Attached
22	Care for Our Community (Lockdown Larder)		To purchase food to be distributed to families who are normally self-sufficient but now find themselves with little or no income as a result of the Covid-19 crisis.	£1000	27.04.20	Community Resilience Fund	Attached
23	Sevenoaks Larder		Purchase of items for the foodbank.	£930	04.01.21	Community Resilience Fund	Attached



Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival

Registered Charity No 1031815

REPORT to SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL – 2020 and 2021 VIDEO FESTIVALS

In June 2020, what should have been the 70th Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival, the town's annual competitive performing arts Festival, could not be held at Walthamstow Hall, due to the covid crisis. However, at short notice, the Festival reinvented itself online accepting recorded items, which proved very popular.

At that time classes could only be offered for solo video entries in Speech and Drama, Piano, Singing, Woodwind and Brass, Strings and Accordion, but 141 entries, across all sections, were received. The quality of the adjudicators was a great draw, with each competitor receiving a written report on their performance item, and suggestions and encouragement aimed at the personal development of the competitor. As music exams had been cancelled, many entrants and their teachers welcomed the opportunity to continue preparing exam pieces for adjudication and have now moved on to the next grade in their studies. The standard was particularly high, attracting many serious students, grateful for the opportunity to perform.

For 2021, it has been decided that, due to the continuation of the pandemic and uncertainty about the coming months, the 2021 Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival will again be a video festival. The syllabus has been distributed to teachers and parents and is now available on our website. This year the classes on offer have been expanded from solo items only, to duets and groups, assuming for these latter classes that entrants will be in a position to rehearse and record safely together in the Summer Term.

We are also including an additional feature, whereby entrants and their teachers will be able to view their class entries and the other entries in their class for a limited period following the adjudication. There is provision for people to withhold consent without affecting the status of their entry, but they will not be able to participate in the reciprocal viewing of other entrants in the class.

Although no Awards will be made, each entrant will receive by email a Certificate, a mark and an adjudication report by a British and International Federation of Festivals adjudicator. As last year, with permission, the names of all those achieving Distinction or better will be published on our website.

All this has been made possible by our move pre-pandemic to invest in an on-line entry system. In 2020 we were one of the first festivals affected by the pandemic and worked with the programme developer to adapt the entry system to accept recorded performances and an adjudication facility. We have been delighted to share this information and our experience with other music festivals and to see this software adopted by many festivals throughout Great Britain.

A video festival means that we are deprived of several significant income streams that only come from a live festival eg programme sales, programme advertising, audience fees, and so the £600 Grant we received from Sevenoaks Town Council in 2020 was particularly welcome. The Grant was applied to the

syllabus printing and distribution costs incurred in 2020, website costs, on-line entry and PayPal charges and insurance. We look forward to a live festival in 2022, but in the meantime hope the opportunities we provide will encourage and inspire everyone to keep practising and performing.

Susan Day

Festival Secretary

The logo for Art in June Open Studios is a yellow square containing the text "ART IN JUNE" in large, bold, black capital letters. Below it, "OPEN STUDIOS" is written in a smaller, black, hand-drawn style font. At the bottom, the website address "www.artinjune.org" is written in a black, sans-serif font.

ART IN JUNE
OPEN STUDIOS
www.artinjune.org

Sevenoaks Town Council
Bradbourne Vale Road
Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3QG

15 February, 2021

Report on Grant Award from Sevenoaks Town Council, 2020

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 £500 towards the printing costs of our Art in June guide book for 2020.

Sadly, the Art in June event planned for June 2020 had to be cancelled in March owing to government restrictions re: Covid – 19. Our guide book had been designed by then, but we hadn't yet sent the order for it to be printed. We did incur costs for the design of the guidebook, however, we decided to rollover our £500 grant and use it for printing costs in 2021.

We were able to display our Guide on our website www.artinjune.org as a "flip book. Thus, our 58 artists were able to enjoy online coverage, despite the cancellation of the actual Open Studio Event. Also, our social media was active on our Instagram account and Facebook page.

Artists were given the option to receive a partial refund of their registration fee (i.e. the fee less administrative costs to March), or to roll over their fees towards registration for 2021. 47 of our artists chose to roll over their fees and we have acquired some new artists as well for 2021.

I understand from informal talks that artists have used lockdown to create huge amounts of art and crafts, so our 2021 event should be the best ever. I am also certain that the residents of Sevenoaks will be hugely interested in attending Open Studios 2021.

It will probably take a different shape this year with masks, hand sanitizer and social distancing. But, no one is yet certain when lockdown rules will be relaxed. Art in June has taken the decision to wait until the end of April to commit our Guidebook to press. We hope to write with a positive result of the use of the Grant Award later this summer. Certainly, the Sevenoaks Town Council Logo will be displayed on the cover of our Guide Book. With many thanks again for your generous sponsorship of our event.

Yours sincerely,

Debra Barr-Smith,
Art in June Co-ordinator



WWW.KENTPAINTERSGROUP.CO.UK

Chairman: Mrs. Jo Smithers
Secretary: Mrs. Elizabeth Bella
Artist Co-Ordinator: Mrs. Dani Meharg

jo@munrosmithers.com
elizabethbella100@icloud.com
danimeharg1@yahoo.co.uk

Sevenoaks Town Council
Bradbourne Vale Road
Sevenoaks Kent TN13 3Q

15 February, 2021

Kent Painters Group – Grant Aid for 2020

I am writing on behalf of the Kent Painters Group. The Committee is most grateful for your support through your generous grant aid award of £200 towards the printing of reusable road signs for our 2020 Annual Exhibiton & Sale at Sevenoaks School.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel that event owing to Covid-19 restrictions. However, we were able to carry on an online exhibition. Instead of a weekend event, we displayed the artwork from our 60 local artists online for a one month period. Committee members worked hard to publicise the event using social media platforms.

Sales were considerably down from our usual live exhibition, but, we did manage to gather enough revenue to send cheques for £1000 each to our local charities: Sevenoaks Mencap, The Friends of Dartford Road (formerly MacIntyre) and Rethink (locally, the Sevenoaks Carers Support Group).

They have reported back how grateful they were for these donations, despite being less than what we would normally have raised for these worthwhile causes.

Kent Painters group decided to roll over the £200 grant towards their 2021 Exhibition. The group has not made any firm decisions until we see how the country unlocks and the success of the vaccines. Possibly the traditional exhibition may not even happen this year, but we hope to sort something out—maybe on a smaller scale. We have reserved some funds in case there is a need to facilitate things. The Committee plans to meet again around Easter to re-evaluate.

Thank you for letting us know about the YouTube Annual Town Meeting – Monday 15th March 2021 at 7pm for which members of the public are invited to submit questions/comments in advance. We are sorry that we will not be able to attend the meeting as usual with a stall demonstrating how we used our grant funding.

Kent Painters Group will keep the Sevenoaks Town Council informed of their Exhibition plans for this year and we thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Debra Barr-Smith,
Kent Painters Group
Committee member



Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group

Report detailing funds spent from the Sevenoaks Town Council 2020 Grant of £500 attributable to residents of Sevenoaks Town.

The split Sevenoaks Town/Other parishes is based on the passengers in the six months ended 30 September because later figures not yet available.

Report of funds spent on residents of Sevenoaks Town in 9 months ended 31 December 2020

Total funds spent in 9 months	Driver payments	£1,905
	Salaries	£8,100
	Office costs	£683
	Other expenses	£350
	Total	£11,038

Passengers in 6 months ended 30 September 2020

Sevenoaks Town	36
Other parishes in District	31
Total	67

Funds spent attributable to residents of Sevenoaks Town to which Grant of £500 applies.

$$36/67 \times £11,038 = £5,931$$

Anthony Weston Smith

Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group

Thanks to Sevenoaks Town Council for the emergency funding of £500 provided from the Community Resilience Fund:

“As Chairman of this volunteer group, one of the real pleasures is writing to persons and bodies who support us and thank them for their generosity – please pass on my thanks to your councillors for the grant of £500.

We have always felt it prudent to have sufficient funds available to cover one year’s operation and this extraordinary year has seen our capital dwindle: you can be sure that the Council’s contribution has been well received. A trouble shared is a trouble halved – let’s hope we will all return to some sort of sanity very soon.

With very many thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Holgate

Chairman SVTG

17th February 2021



5. Chairman's report

The coronavirus pandemic has taken the lives of so many and wreaked havoc across the world. All meetings after the New Year Dinner had to be cancelled, including Les Amis visit in May

We have now begun our second lockdown and sadly we have had to abandon plans for a New Year Dinner

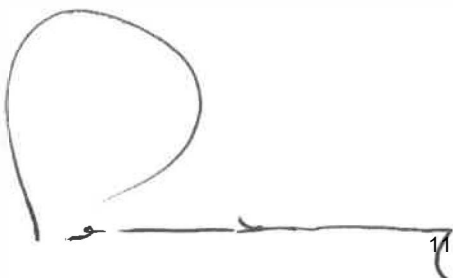
The re-arranged visit to us by Les Amis on 13-16 May next year is on hold. We will keep you informed but are not optimistic that it will go ahead

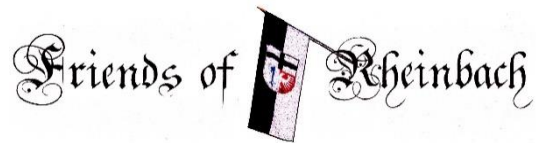
New Year Dinner in January of this year was a delicious meal enjoyed by 28 members and 2 guests cooked by *Stephanie's*. We will plan to use Stephanie Chapman again when we can

We had a seven-member team competed at the Mayor's Quiz evening in February. They were in the lead for the first two rounds and then dropped back a few places and at the end tied with the Friends of Rheinbach

Thank you everyone for your loyal support and patience. Please stay with us, Les Amis de Sevenoaks will be back with us some day.

Covid 19 and Brexit will never diminish our bond with the town of Pontoise

M. R. 



Report to Sevenoaks Town Council on the use of grant funds awarded to the Friends of Rheinbach in 2020 and related matters

The coronavirus epidemic has had a serious effect on what would, otherwise, have been a particularly memorable year for Friends of Rheinbach. As a result, all activities planned for the period following the introduction of restrictions in March had to be cancelled or postponed and it has been impossible to use more than a very small part of the Town Council grant for the purposes intended.

We are grateful to the Town Council for its agreement to our suggestion that the grant awarded for 2020/1 be rolled forward to 2021/2. Our objectives for the use of grant funds remain as described in our January 2020 application: a programme of activities aimed at broadening the basis of twinning links between Sevenoaks and Rheinbach.

2020 was the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth in Bonn. The city and its surrounding region – of which Rheinbach is a part – planned a substantial programme of events to mark the anniversary. Rheinbach's contribution was to be a large concert involving young musicians from each of the town's four twinning partners. The May timing was not ideal as it is close to the start of school exams in the UK; nonetheless, Friends of Rheinbach was instrumental in securing arrangements for a party of 15 pupils from Sevenoaks School to perform at the concert. We brought the date of our usual biennial visit to Rheinbach forward to enable our members to attend some of the events and to share our coach transport with the young musicians, their instruments and their accompanying teachers.

With the outbreak of the epidemic, the whole event had to be called off and our plans for a significant Sevenoaks presence were unfulfilled.

A scaled down replacement event is planned for 2021, again on the basis of contributions from young musicians from the four twinning towns, but this time on a virtual basis to be shown on a large screen at an open-air concert. The arrangements are designed to accommodate whatever social distancing and travel regulations may be in force at the time. Once again, Friends of Rheinbach has been instrumental in ensuring that Sevenoaks is fully represented at the concert with contributions from Sevenoaks School pupils. A particular challenge has been ensuring that some ensemble performances can be included whilst maintaining social distancing.



We are hoping that it will still be possible for Sevenoaks to have a non-performing, 'on the ground' presence at the concert in Rheinbach but, at present, the extent to which this might be possible is unclear.

Contact with our members has been maintained through email and post and, shortly before Christmas, about 30 members of Friends of Rheinbach and Freunde von Sevenoaks met up via a video-conferencing link. Both at group and individual levels there is some on-going exchange of news and social contact between members of the two societies and we continue to maintain a presence on the worldwide web.

Where necessary, the committee also meets through video conferencing. An unanticipated advantage of this is the opportunity to involve the Chairman of Freunde von Sevenoaks when matters of mutual interest are discussed. Our November AGM had to be postponed until circumstances improve, but the reports normally tabled at that meeting have been circulated to members. In view of the fact that we will not be submitting a separate grant application for the year ahead, a copy of our Chairman's year end review is appended to this report.

January 2021





CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2020

Given the strange times in which we are living, my annual report will for once probably contain more looking forward than looking back to remind us all of a tally of cancelled events, of which we are only too aware.

Our New Year's dinner took place in a new venue, the larger of Otford's two village halls. This proved to be very satisfactory, both for our enjoyment of the occasion, and for the adequacy of the kitchen for the needs of our excellent caterer Stephanie and her team, who were working in surroundings familiar to them from other past engagements. My thanks go to Margaret Willis and Carol Oakley for their assistance with making the evening run smoothly, and to all who supported the raffle. Once again the event yielded a welcome sum to be added to our bank balance.

The advent of lockdown and all that it entailed brought our hoped for programme for the rest of the year to an abrupt halt. Especially disappointing was the cancellation, not only of our trip to Rheinbach, but also the local area's 250th anniversary celebrations of the birth of Beethoven, for which a party of fifteen musicians from Sevenoaks School had prepared a splendid contribution. With generous German state funding to cover the musicians' travel (and board and lodging) we had been able to keep the cost of coach travel for our members to a very reasonable amount. A ray of light on the horizon has been the announcement from the celebration organisers of their intention to run the programme from 13th -16th May next year. This, of course, is far from certain, and I know already the disappointing news that the dates make it difficult for the Sevenoaks School contingent to participate. In the light of this I am exploring the possibility of some pupils from Knole Academy taking their place.

The 'life must go on' spirit which characterizes our German friends' determination to resurrect the Beethoven celebration programme should be seen as our own determination to get back to something as near as possible to our customary mode of operating, but with any modifications or even innovations that reflect respectively any concerns of, and any new ideas emanating from, the membership. One such new idea, the brainchild of Reg Oakley, and with the aim of keeping the connection between FvS and ourselves alive, is to publish an occasional newsletter containing articles about individual's activities during lockdown and since. Conceived originally as being a joint publication, from the attached document you will see that our friends in Rheinbach have stolen a march on us! In practical terms I now favour their idea of separate publications – no requirement for "inter-continental" co-ordination of material, nor deciding who (Joachim or me) will do the publishing. I'm hoping that Rheinbach's initiative will spur a few more of us into writing something (it doesn't have to be lengthy), or sending in a photo or two. Whether we can match the wittiness of the Rheinbachers' title remains to be seen. I'm pondering 'The Sevenoaks Pandemonicle' as a possibility.



A further indication of the desire to keep town twinning associations alive and active is the forthcoming zoom meeting of the Chairs of all Kent towns with a German partner town. This will be hosted by Julian Stanyer, chairman of the Tunbridge Wells Twinning Association. Peter Barnes, chairman of the British German Association, will also be taking part. The aim of the meeting is partly to update each other on our respective current state of affairs, and partly to discuss ideas of common interest.

From the **Rheinbach Coronicle** you will learn that long-serving mayor of Rheinbach, Stefan Raetz has stood down after twenty years. I have encouraged our own Town Mayor to send greetings from Sevenoaks Town Council to the new incumbent.

This is the appropriate moment for me to record our warm thanks to the Town Council for their annual grant, and to assure them that whilst our activities may currently be restricted by Covid-19 precautions we continue to seek imaginative but approvable ways of spending the grant.

Almost finally, some matters to do with our membership. Firstly, and with great sadness, I have to record the death of Robert Outram, whose friendliness, good humour, and love of cycling we remember, with gratitude for the former and admiration for the latter. On behalf of Friends of Rheinbach a card expressing our condolences was sent to Diana. With Bob's death, and with Humphrey Pring and his wife returning to live in Germany our membership now stands at 36.

Secondly, the committee has decided that for the coming year 2020/2021 we shall not be asking members to pay a membership fee. This reflects the uncertainty over what, if anything, Friends of Rheinbach may be able to offer by way of a programme of events. With it being unlikely that we shall be able to hold the annual New Year's dinner, a principal source of revenue, and despite our finances being currently in a healthy state, should anyone feel moved to make a donation to help with everyday running costs (postage, maintaining the website, public liability insurance, etc.) such donations would not be turned down! Although needing to be recorded in our accounts, Mike Wither our treasurer says that they would appear as a single line entry and would be anonymous. If appropriate please contact Mike directly. His email address is michaelwither@outlook.com. I would stress that no one should feel under the slightest compulsion to make a donation.

Lastly, please may I repeat my plea for more of you to contribute some news to the first edition of our own publication to keep the members of Freunde von Sevenoaks informed. Some photos would be very welcome should you be feeling pictorial more than literary! Please send any contributions to me either by email, peterfyoung@yahoo.co.uk or as hard copy; I'll be happy to convert them into digital format.

Peter Young
October 2020



Sevenoaks Town Council

Report on grants received by

Sevenoaks 2020/Sevenoaks in a Time of Change



Sevenoaks 2020/Sevenoaks in a Time of Change Exhibition opened by the **Mayor of Sevenoaks Cllr Nicholas Busvine**
14 September 2020

Sevenoaks 2020 was conceived initially as a photographic celebration of the town centre in the face of threats to it from internet retailing and out-of-town shopping. The objective was to photograph all the activities in the town centre along with the people who make them work and to curate the resultant images into an **Exhibition** at the **Kaleidoscope Gallery**. The photographs were then to be returned to the town centre activities for display in their premises thereby bringing the exhibition onto the street.

And then came Covid-19. The project grew to expand into a book - **Sevenoaks in a Time of Change** - as well as an Exhibition. The book would allow the issues raised by **Sevenoaks 2020** to circulate and be discussed more widely. It contains all the 250+ photographs in the Exhibition and includes a number of commentaries on the dynamics of change in town centres as well as a framework for the kinds of policies needed to enhance the attractiveness and post-pandemic sustainability of the town centre.

It was vital to sustain the highest standards in both exhibition and book but such standards are costly and especially demanding on cash flow. The financial model used by **Sevenoaks 2020** was to ask the subjects of the exhibition to pay in advance for their photographs thereby facilitating a rolling programme of paying for the printing which was undertaken superbly by **The Print Studio** at Sevenoaks DC. However, the cash flow issue was intensified by the production of **Sevenoaks in a Time of Change**.

The grants received from the **Town Council** not only eased the immediate cash flow problem but also offered great support and encouragement for the project which had, from the off, also been met with enormous enthusiasm by all town centre participants.

Entrance to the Exhibition which was held over seven weeks during September and the first part of October 2020 was free of charge. Up to 1000 people visited and the comments in the Visitors' book were universally full of praise not just for the quality of the curation but for the emotional resonances that it generated.

Similarly ***Sevenoaks in a Time of Change*** – which is available nationally but more immediately accessible at **Sevenoaks Bookshop** – has sold very well and continues to receive many plaudits. It is frequently referred to in various virtual and print media. We are selling the book at cost price (retail price £10) to make it as accessible to as many people as possible.

We hope and believe that ***Sevenoaks 2020/Sevenoaks in a Time of Change*** made worthwhile contributions to the town. What is certain is that the project would have been placed in serious jeopardy - or even abandoned - without the support of the **Town Council's grant scheme**.

Victoria Granville

Elizabeth Purves

Roger Lee

Sevenoaks 2020/Sevenoaks in a Time of Change

02 02 2021

The funding provided by the Sevenoaks Town Council has enabled West Kent Mediation (WKM) to continue to provide free community mediation service to all the residents within West Kent. It allows our 30+ volunteer mediators to practice and use their skills to help the community in doing what they enjoy.

We have this year helped over 12 households using the process of mediation, some cases lasting over many months.

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 play an active role and attend the weekly Community Safety Partnership meetings. We are a partner in the Path Partnership (Homelessness project Lottery funded). All these meetings are currently being held by either Teams or Zoom. Pre covid we have carried out many presentations to local groups to help promote our service.

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.

Here are some of the quotes we have received this year from of our referrers:

“Have used this service for many years now in my role within Housing Association. Always found the service of benefit to us and more importantly to our customers in helping to resolve sometimes many years of bad feeling which improves their lives and that of me and my colleagues. Feedback is given at the level required without breaching any confidentiality of the clients involved.” (Housing Officer, West Kent Housing)

“Thank you for all your help with our tenants. You really make our job easier and it is much appreciated” (Housing officer, West Kent Housing)

“I have always found West Kent Mediation very helpful; they have dealt with some very challenging cases and had some amazing results.

I would always use / recommend them” (PCSO, Kent Police)

“Feedback, if the clients are happy for the details of the meetings to be shared, is always helpful as referrals are made due to anti-social behaviour and neighbour disputes.” (Housing Officer, Town and Country Housing Group)

Here are some quotes we have received this year from our clients:

“Mediators were amazing and supported everyone, they gave me a lifeline”

“Looking forward to a better happier life”

“it was lovely to talk one to one with my neighbour”

“they helped me out, thank you”

2020 has been an extremely challenging year for us here at WKM, and we have seen a large increase in referrals to our service, many of which we have related to noise/nuisance issues. This appears to have been the result of the Covid lockdown - with people being confined to their homes for lengthy periods of time, finding these issues stressful and painful.

We have also noticed an increase in our family referrals. Some of the issues that have been reported in our family work are with young people missing social contact with their friends, feeling confined, not having enough personal space, and getting involved in family arguments - plus home schooling earlier in the year meaning having to share working space with other family members.

Our working practices have been necessarily changed as we are currently unable to make home visits and we are receiving additional telephone expenses from our mediators who are conducting assessment meetings on their private phones. In addition, in place of making home visits, we will be relying on hiring village/community halls for our joint mediation meetings, incurring additional expenses. We have also invested in a professional version of “zoom” which enables us to have meetings that run for longer than 40 minutes. The time spent either on the telephone or Zoom to both neighbours in dispute and families in trouble have been extremely helpful, giving our service users the benefit of talking to an independent third party about their issues. The nature of this work also means that volunteer mediators are working on their own during telephone calls and some zoom calls and they have not got a co-mediator to help them with the problem solving that is often required during these complex cases therefore they are calling and speaking to the two office supervisors to help, clarify, offload any case problems they may have far more often than previous times.

Our volunteer mediators remain committed to the work and during these extraordinary covid times one mediator saw the need for the neighbours to meet face to face and discuss their wants and needs. All parties were agreeable and she set up a meeting in the local park where all could social distance, she even took along fold away chairs and umbrellas. This was a successful meeting. This was then shared to all of our volunteer mediators.

So, we are still working and active, albeit in different ways!

Amanda Bell

Chief Executive Officer

January 2021

West Kent Mediation



Citizens Advice in North & West Kent
Buckhurst Lane
Sevenoaks
Kent TN13 1HW

Alison Futtit
Sevenoaks Town Council
Council Office
Bradbourne Vale Road
Sevenoaks, Kent
TN13 3QG

citizensadvice.org.uk

18 February 2021

Dear Alison,

Re: Citizen Advice in North & West Kent – Sevenoaks Town Council Grants

I am writing to again thank you for the ongoing support we have received from the Sevenoaks Town Council through these incredibly challenging times, and to update you on both our use of our 2020 Resilience Fund grant and on potential plans for our scams awareness project in Sevenoaks, which was successful in receiving funding at the end of March.

Community Resilience Funding

As planned in our application to the Community Resilience Fund, we have used the grant to enable an IT specialist to create remote access to the computers and server in our Sevenoaks Town office. This has enabled a total of 25 advice-trained volunteers who would usually be based in our Sevenoaks Advice Centre to continue volunteering their time and skills from their own homes, without compromising data security or advice quality. We have been so grateful to have this capability, as demand for our advice has continued to rise as the pandemic has continued and its impact becomes more widespread across our community. By enabling our highly-skilled Sevenoaks volunteers to continue giving advice, your support has enabled us to maximise our advice capacity and prevented our experienced volunteers from becoming disengaged and deskilled. As we enter the second lockdown, we are so grateful to have this system already setup, to prevent further impact on our advice-giving capabilities.

The Covid-19 crisis has created unprecedented challenges for us all, but we have attempted to meet the challenges head-on; focusing on embedding our remote serves, expanding capacity to meet demand and ensuring our advice and support remains of the highest quality and accessible to the most vulnerable in our community. Since the start of the first lockdown, we have supported over 280 Sevenoaks Town residents with almost 800 separate issues. Of these clients, 40% were disabled or with long term health conditions and within this group, 52% had mental health conditions. Whilst it is too early to know most outcomes of our advice during the period, we do know that we enabled Sevenoaks Town clients to secure over £125,000 in additional income

Chief Executive Angela Newey

Citizens Advice in North & West Kent, incorporating Citizens Advice in Gravesham, Sevenoaks, Swanley and Tonbridge & Malling. Charity registration number 1082979. A company limited by guarantee in England & Wales Registered number 03960538. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority FRN: 617614. Registered office as above

(primarily through Universal Credit claims and appealing benefits decisions) and secured the write off of debts totalling £50,000.

Scams Awareness in Sevenoaks Town

Our original plan for a Scams Awareness Project (which involved community sessions in Sevenoaks Town) was unfortunately impacted by the national and local Covid-19 restrictions. Consequently, the Town Council kindly approved a revised plan to achieve similar outcomes but in different ways.

We are currently raising awareness of scams and how to avoid becoming a victim of scams through a social media and leafleting campaign.

Leafleting

- We have created the attached flyer, which contains lots of tips for recognising and avoiding scams, plus advice on what to do if you think you may have been the victim of a scam. These are currently at the printers and we have a full programme for distribution within the town:
 - We have partnered with 7oaks News & Wine, a local newsagent on St Johns Hill, who will distribute this flyer alongside the local newspaper that they deliver.
 - Leaflets will be on show and available for people to pick up in local supermarkets, pharmacies, GP practices and the Sevenoaks Hospital.
- We anticipate that leaflet distribution will begin week commencing 8th February 2021.

Social Media

- We have planned a series of weekly Scams Awareness posts on our CANWK Facebook & Twitter platform through until the end of March.
- We will share these posts on the following Sevenoaks Facebook groups/pages, where many Sevenoaks Town residents are members:
 - Sevenoaks Mums Network group (10.2k members)
 - Sevenoaks Community page (10,207 followers)
 - Sevenoaks Women's Forum (1,106 followers)
 - Sevenoaks & Tonbridge NCT group (2k members)
 - Age UK Sevenoaks & Tonbridge (212 followers)

I hope that you will agree that, whilst this is not quite the same as the original project, it will achieve similar objectives as it will be giving local people the knowledge and confidence to avoid being a victim of a scam and what to do if they believe they have been targeted by scammers.

Thank you once again for your continued support

With best wishes
Helen

Helen Beckerson
Operations Manager

Email: helen.beckerson@nwkent.cab.org.uk / Telephone: 01732 440477

Take Control Protect Yourself From Scams

citizens
advice

North &
West Kent



2020 recorded the highest number of people being scammed! Don't feel embarrassed to report it, anyone can fall victim to a scam. Let's work together to protect each other and stop the criminals!

GET ADVICE



If you think something is suspicious, call
**Citizens Advice
Consumer Helpline on
0808 223 1133.**

REPORT



If you suspect something may be a scam or you have fallen victim to a scam call
**Action Fraud on
0300 123 2040.**

TALK



To people you trust, about a suspected scam to protect yourself and them.

HOW TO... SPOT SCAMS

5 tips to recognise scams

- Have you been approached out of the blue?
- Are you being asked for your personal details and/or bank details?
- Do you feel under pressure to make a decision?
- Have you been asked to keep it a secret?
- Are they offering you something that seems too good to be true?

If you answered **YES** to any of the above, it could be a scam. **Report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or www.actionfraud.police.uk**

Be #ScamAware

GET ADVICE | REPORT | TALK

Follow CANWK:

22



HOW TO... STOP SCAMS

Tips to avoid scams and stay safe

- 1 . **Protect your personal information**, do not hand this out easily
- 2 . **Never send money to people you don't know**
- 3 . **Don't feel pressured to make a decision**, if you're unsure, it is okay to say 'No' and that you will seek advice first before hanging up
- 4 . **Strengthen your online security**, with online security software on your digital devices, create strong passwords, open websites with HTTPS
- 5 . **Don't open any unknown email or text message links**
- 6 . **Register with the free Telephone Preference Service (TPS)** to opt-out of cold calls

WATCH OUT FOR...Coronavirus Scams

During the Covid-19 outbreak and lockdown restrictions, there has been an increase in various scams. We urge you to remain vigilant.



NHS - VACCINE

If you've been contacted by email, text message or a phone call asking for your personal and bank details to pay for a vaccine - this is a scam.

NHS coronavirus vaccines are FREE.



HMRC - TAX REFUNDS & TAX FINES

Beware of emails, texts and phone calls from odd numbers requesting your personal and bank details to issue tax refunds and pay tax fines.



CLONE INVESTMENT FIRMS

Criminals have replicated existing investment company websites by obtaining their information from the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

For advice call Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133

To report a scam call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 ²³

Talk to people you trust if you become aware of a scam to protect each other



Sevenoaks Literary Festival

The Town Council very kindly allowed the 2020 grant awarded to Sevenoaks Literary Festival to be carried over to 2021. The grant is for a free event for local schoolchildren to be held at a local primary school.

We have fixed the dates for this year's festival (24/09 to 8/10) but at this stage we cannot make any arrangements for a schools-based event, as I am sure you understand. There may be another way of using the grant to benefit local schoolchildren. In any case I will let you know as soon as anything has been decided.

Jill Webster
28.01.2021

Sevenoaks Town Council Grant Feedback

Project	Sevenoaks Vine renovation
Date Commenced	23rd September 2020
Date expected to be completed	First 1/4 2021 and certainly before Easter
Information provided by	Andy Richardson, Chairman, Sevenoaks Vine Cricket Club
Date of feedback	8th December 2020
Project to date information	<p>Works completed as per submitted scope and time line: installation of protective fencing, application of Glyosphosphate, cultivation of the entire area (excluding the cricket table) to a depth of 150mm, application of Prilled Lime to adjust ph, grading to return true levels, seeding with bespoke recipe of grass types to provide harder wearing & drought tolerant sward, application of nematodes to address Leatherjacket infestation, application of fertilizers.</p> <p>The seed has germinated and additional weekly maintenance routines: brushing, cutting, watering as necessary initiated. The periodic photographs submitted to STC attest to the progress made</p>
To do	<p>Continue weekly maintenance to promote sward establishment, additional fertilizer application and monthly assessment of sward strength to optimise timing for removal of fencing without compromising objectives</p> <p>Finally remove the fencing and return the Vine for use as described in the Deed of Gift dated 1734 i.e., the playing of cricket and public recreation.</p>
Unexpected outcomes / problems	<p>Currently it is anticipated that a successful outcome will be achieved, possibly exceeding expectations, in terms of the quality of the grass sward and true levels on the entire Vine area.</p> <p>'Normal' seasonal weather patterns and optimising the timing for removal of the fencing are key to the final outcome</p>

SEVENOAKS COUNSELLING - REPORT TO FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE,
SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL.

Sevenoaks Counselling (formally known as Sevenoaks Christian Counselling Service) 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.

Council members will appreciate that, as a result of the pressures which most people have experienced during the pandemic, the need for counselling has increased. At the same time, of course, also as a result of the pandemic, many residents will be living on reduced incomes because they have been 'furloughed' or have even become unemployed.

As a result of government measures introduced during the pandemic, it has not been possible to continue face-to-face counselling at our headquarters but our counsellors have quickly adapted to the needs of clients and are now used to counselling clients by phone or video. Although not ideal, it has proved to be a positive experience for most clients. Interestingly, attendance at booked remote sessions during the year ending 31st January 2021 has been better than attendance in person at booked sessions in previous years.

However, our Treasurer has recently reported that, despite the good attendance, our income from clients for the past year has dropped by nearly £5,000, which underlines our continued need for financial assistance.

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

Stephen Day
Trustee
19 February 2021

Sevenoaks Town Council Community Grant Report 2020/2021

Sevenoaks Town Council Covid 19 Grant 2020

£1000 received by PSBreastfeeding CIC in September 2020

£780 received by PSBreastfeeding CIC in March 2020

Project –

We run a weekly drop-in social community group at Otford Village Memorial Hall (temporary location due to Covid19) for pregnant women, new parents and their families offering breastfeeding and infant carrier support from trained specialists and volunteers. Local families are able to learn about the benefits of using slings and carriers safely, as a great parenting tool to help calm baby and make life a little easier with a newborn. For this project we planned to train additional volunteers as babywearing peer supporters so that we could support more families in Sevenoaks Town.

As part of our local breastfeeding support we offer low cost and free breastpump rental for families who may need to increase their supply, are having challenges breastfeeding, or perhaps are waiting for a tongue-tie procedure. The demand for pumps increased at the beginning of lockdown for many reasons. At its worst, families had delays in being assessed and referred for a tongue-tie and were then waiting 6+ weeks for a procedure appointment and were being asked to travel into London for the procedure which some families were not comfortable doing. Midwives and Health Visitors were completing a lot of contacts over the phone and families were finding it difficult to get adequate breastfeeding support, so resorting to expressing milk to make sure baby was fed. We also loaned pumps to families who were isolating and couldn't access face to face support (when available), and to mothers who were admitted with Covid 19 and needed to express at the hospital. We asked Sevenoaks Town Council to fund 3 additional pumps and 30 additional collection kits so that more families in Sevenoaks could receive free pump rental during lockdown.

Budget –

This funding was budgeted to pay for the training of 10 existing volunteers and 5 new local parents to support more families with babywearing in Sevenoaks Town. Funding will cover the cost of the trainer, room rental, any additional equipment needed for the training and ongoing supervision after training is complete.

This funding was used to purchase 3 double electric breastpumps and 30 individual use collection kits.

What we have achieved in 2020/2021

Spring/Summer 2020

2020 has been a challenging year for Kent Sling Library. Prior to March we had been running weekly events alongside our breastfeeding support group at HopeChurch in Sevenoaks and a monthly sling library group at Spring House Children's Centre. When lockdown 1 took place all of our venues closed and we began to offer support via video calls, posting and dropping quarantined slings across the District. In some cases, offering support to those unable to use video chatting from across the road to maintain the appropriate distance. Families were more likely to take an interest in using slings as they were restricted to one hour of exercise each day and wanted to take advantage of pathways that were not easily accessible with a pram.

During Lockdown 1, our contract ended with HopeChurch so we began to look for new venues in the Sevenoaks area for both the breastfeeding group and sling group. In July 2020 one of the only venues to offer the amount of space we needed at a price we could afford was Otford Village Memorial Hall (OVMH). We had not planned to move the breastfeeding and sling group out of Sevenoaks Town, but there were no other options at the time. OVMH has adequate space, free parking and is walking distance from public transportation.

We loaned 8 breastpumps to families in Sevenoaks for various reason –

To maintain supply by a keyworker, to maintain supply during isolation, to build supply when baby couldn't latch, to build supply during stress, to maintain supply whilst waiting for a tongue-tie procedure, to enable another caregiver to feed baby when Mum was ill with Covid19.

Autumn/Winter 2020

We were able to take advantage of the month we had between receiving funding and Lockdown 2 to complete our first volunteer babywearing peer support training. We didn't have a lot of time to promote the training widely and so invited existing volunteer breastfeeding peer supporters to attend this training. 6 existing volunteers completed this first training, all passed and received their certificates.

All volunteers felt more confident helping families use slings safely after completing the course

"I now feel able to help more parents wear their babies safely"

"I enjoyed learning to use slings that I had not used before"

Challenges –

- We had to purchase additional slings and carriers so that we could complete the training without sharing any slings between volunteers.
- The volunteers were not able to immediately start supporting the sling library because many of our venues closed over November, in Tier 4 and have found it even more challenging with their older children out of school.

We have loaned 7 pumps to families in Sevenoaks for similar reasons, although recently we've had more requests for pumps from Covid19 positive mothers who are isolating or have been admitted to hospital.

2021

We have promoted volunteering opportunities in the Sevenoaks area and have plans to complete more training over the next 2 months. If in-person is not a possibility, then we will complete as much as possible via video conference. Volunteers are currently invited to increase their skills by supporting the current sessions running in Otford, Tonbridge and Aylesford to build their confidence levels.

Each pump has been loaned to Sevenoaks families at least 5 times and we have issued all of the individual use collection kits. The pumps will continue to be loaned to families over the next year.

We really appreciate the support we've received from Sevenoaks Town Council. My colleagues and volunteers have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to support as many families as possible and I'm really proud of the work they have done, and we can only do this with the support from the grants that we receive.

With Thanks

Karen McCully, IBCLC
PSBreastfeeding CIC



Bradbourne Residents' Association (BRA)

Bradbourne,org.uk

Chairman : Mr N Kennard

Secretary : Mr B R Brown

Treasurer & Membership Secretary : Margaret Nicholas

Committee Members

John Ingram

Graham Dean

Amanda Owens

Robert Miles

Grant Aid to the Bradbourne Residents Association 2020 : Purchase and Installation of a Picnic Table at Bradbourne Lakes

Report to the Sevenoaks Town Council

1. The Grant Application

The BRA, as part of the Bradbourne Lakes Park restoration process (see paragraph 5 below), sought funds to purchase a Picnic Bench/Table. The purpose for providing this is to improve public facilities particularly encouraging a broader Community use and an enhanced experience for the wide range of people now regularly visiting the Park. During the Covid – 19 Pandemic there has been a dramatic increase in the public use of the Park as a recreational release asset!

This Picnic Table will supplement the STC Part Funded Table already installed at the Bradbourne Lakes North Site in 2017. It is noteworthy that the installation of this table has been a great success and is much used by visitors.

2. Choice and Siting of the Bench/Table

The new Bench/Table has been chosen from the same manufacturing source as the first Table. This supplier can provide a heavy duty and durable product made of recycled plastic. This material is virtually maintenance free, does not rot, corrode or splinter and the colour will not fade even in direct sunlight.

A feature of the product chosen is an extended table to provide unobstructed space for those using wheelchairs and other mobility equipment.

The BRA has consulted with the SDC as to a suitable location in the South Site and the SDC has agreed to provide a purpose made base with heavy duty anchorage points.

The Table was delivered in early January and it is planned that the installation will be carried out by the SDC with assistance from the BRA in early Spring concomitant with improving weather conditions.

Details of the Bench/Table and the Manufacturer are appended to this report.

3. Expenditure of the Grant

Details of the expenditure is as follows :-

- ◆ Grant value : £250.00
- ◆ Cost of Bench/Table : £429.00 + VAT : £94.80 + Delivery Charge £45.00.
- ◆ Total Cost : £568.80
- ◆ The balance between the grant and the final purchase cost will be provided from BRA funds.

Full details of the paperwork involved in this expenditure is held by the Treasurer of the BRA

Note : The BRA will be discussing the placing of a plaque on the Picnic Table acknowledging the STC funding grant. This will include liaison with the STC concerning a suitable inscription and the specification of a vandal deterrent/proof material.

4. Funding Support from the KCC

Subsequent to the award of the STC Grant, Cllr Crabtree offered financial support for a second Picnic Table funded from the KCC Local Member Grants Scheme. The application was successful and a sum of £500.00 was granted for expenditure in the current financial year. In agreement with the SDC a site has been chosen and this will be located in the same area as the STC supported table but suitably distanced.

5. Bradbourne Lakes Restoration

The BRA has been working with the (SDC) attempting to restore Bradbourne Lakes as much as possible to a condition commensurate with the heritage of the site and as a much used and appreciated public asset. In 2019/2020 the SDC provisionally awarded a significant restoration sum from the CIL fund now unfortunately frustrated by the Covid – 19 Pandemic.

Significant achievements over the last few years are :-

- ◆ Establishment of regular liaison meetings/discussion between the SDC and the BRA addressing day to day maintenance requirements and the search for further funding of major restoration works.
- ◆ Establishment by the BRA of volunteer working parties undertaking general tidying up and the clearance of undergrowth

- ◆ Extensive SDC renewal of border fences, gates and benches
- ◆ Maintenance and repairs by the SDC of collapsed gullies and banking as well as the removal of fallen trees and other debris from the Lakes.
- ◆ Planting of a Catalpa Tree to enhance the variety of decorative trees in the Park. (with the aid of an STC Grant in 2015)
- ◆ Establishment by the BRA of regular public events programmes

Byron R Brown - Secretary BRA

Appendix : Marmax Brochure Link giving details of the Bench/Table Manufacturer and Product



[Sturdy Picnic Bench Extended Top - Marmax Recycled Plastic Products.html](#)

Alison Futtit
Sevenoaks Town Council
Sent via email

15 January 2021

Dear Alison,

Skiffle Express Music Group - Grant Report

We are delighted to be writing to you with an update on our Skiffle Express Music Group, since we very gratefully received a grant of £900 from Sevenoaks Town Council.

The group have been meeting at St Luke's Church in strict accordance with government guidelines relating to "hands, face, and space". Being able to meet up has been so beneficial for the participants.

West Kent Mind's Wellbeing Worker, Danusia, paid a visit to St Luke's Church just before Christmas to visit the Group in action. Here is a comment from her visit:

"I was lucky enough to visit the group on Wednesday and the atmosphere was so lovely. I cannot tell you how uplifting it was to be in the same room as people singing together. When they sang "I can see clearly now"- I couldn't help but feel choked up!"

Here are some pictures taken during Danusia's visit.



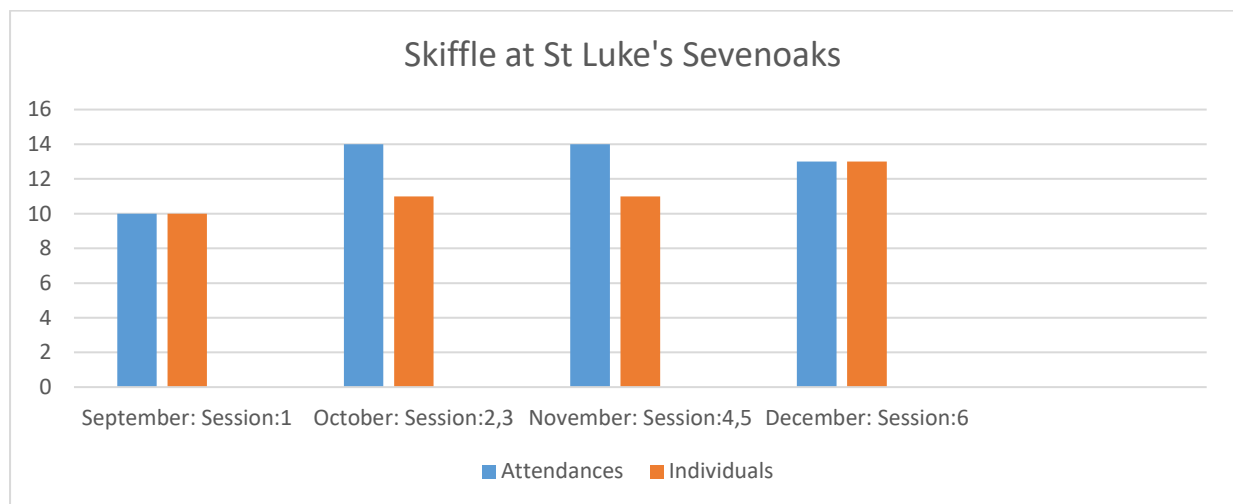
The power of music and singing together has such a profound impact on the mind, body and soul, as proven by this amazing group!

The group has been meeting for two and a half hours every other Wednesday and have enjoyed six sessions thus far. They have also been involved in some amazing musical collaborations; they teamed up with Arts without Boundaries and contributed to a music video, a truly uplifting piece of work! Our volunteer, Bernie, along with Music Tutor, Eddie, played a crucial role in supporting and instructing the group in making this happen. Here is the link to watch and listen; it is so uplifting and demonstrates what the group have been working towards in recent months.

<https://www.facebook.com/artswithoutboundaries.org.uk/videos/407879713791019>

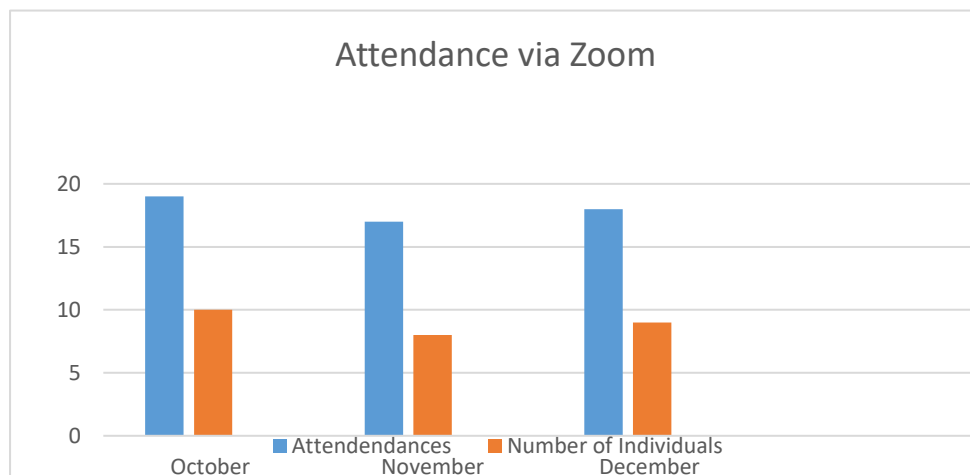
They also attended an online Zoom Christmas celebration with the D’vine Singers, again, another superb independent musical group who have strong links with West Kent Mind.

Attendance of physical groups



In line with government guidance, we have had to restrict physical attendance to 15 or under.

Attendance of online groups



The group have also been meeting every Friday between 2pm -3.30pm. Whilst it does not afford the same experience as meeting physically, it does provide an alternative way to connect with each other. Our volunteers and our Music Tutor are so dedicated to supporting this group. We truly appreciate all that they do, along with the kind support from Sevenoaks Town Council.

Feedback from our beneficiaries

All who attend the Skiffle Express Music Group have said how much they appreciate and value having the opportunity to be a part of this group. They have all verbalised how it impacts positively on their emotional and physical wellbeing. Below are some recent quotes from our beneficiaries:

"The live music sessions at St Luke's Hall are a very positive experience for me and each of the group".

"Those who take part are always very keen to be involved and to contribute. Spirits are always lifted and there is much laughter".

"The fun atmosphere generated by performing music, comes from us all feeling included and part of a supportive group, in a safe environment".

"I believe that we all gain from the positive impact of these sessions, our wellbeing and spirits having been lifted. I look forward to the sessions resuming soon."

"Meeting at St Luke's was really helpful as it gave me a chance to enjoy other people's company and play with them for real. Zooming has been a big help in these circumstances as it helps keep in touch and to have something to look forward to each week, but it's not like playing along with others. Having the chance to take part in music with others definitely lifts my spirits. It's good to have a chance to play my guitar along with others. It would be easy to drift into depression but this helps to make me practise and gives me a bit of a routine."

We have made the difficult decision to put live sessions at St Luke's on hold from January 2021, given the latest rise in Covid-19 cases across Kent and the greater risk of infection owing to the new strain of coronavirus. The Skiffle Express Music Group will continue meeting on Zoom for now, with the hope that they can all resume at St Luke's Church when it is safe to do so.

All of us here at West Kent Mind sincerely thank Sevenoaks Town Council for their generous support, it means a great deal to all of us. If you would like any further information on the Skiffle Express Music Group, or any other area of our work, please do not hesitate to ask.

Kind regards,

Lorraine Gibbs

Community Partnerships Manager
lorraine.gibbs@westkentmind.org.uk
www.westkentmind.org.uk

Sevenoaks Town Council Community Resilience Grant

End of Grant Report

We applied for an emergency grant from Sevenoaks Town Council for two purposes. The first was an emergency shopping fund for older people in the Sevenoaks Town District who are housebound and cannot access money to pay for essentials during the current pandemic. The second was to help cover the cost of welfare calls and telephone befriending so that regular contact could be maintained with clients to help alleviate some of the isolation and improve well-being during what has and continues to be a very difficult time for older people.

During the first few weeks and months of the pandemic, we carried out over 69 shopping trips for clients in the Sevenoaks area and we have made over 1600 welfare and befriending calls. In the first lockdown, we also used some of the grant to purchase goods for emergency food parcels and activity packs to supplement donations from Age UK National and we delivered just under 200 parcels, of which approximately a third went to clients living the Sevenoaks Town Council area.

These small gestures have made a difference to older people in the Sevenoaks Town Council area as they feel more supported when things have been difficult and this has improved general well-being.

“It is difficult really to find the words to explain what a profound difference this generous-spirited, hard work makes to my mother, and how reassuring it is to know that there are people nearby looking out for her.”

Age UK Sevenoaks and Tonbridge are very grateful to Sevenoaks Town Council for this grant and also for their continued support over the years.



Grant Report to Sevenoaks Town Council

Lockdown Larder (Care for our Community) – Community Resilience Fund Grant £1000

The Lockdown Larder grant of £1000 was spent on a number of our £25 fresh food shops for Sevenoaks Town residents.

Update sent to Linda Larter in June 2020:

The Lockdown Larder initiative is doing incredibly well - this morning we have gone through 200 applications and as a result of our leaflet drop in the last few days we have had applications from 15 new families.

To date we have raised a phenomenal £8452, made up of £3060 in direct donations (of which your £1,000 was the first) and £5392 through our GoFundMe page.

So far we have done approximately 130 shops for 61 different households, totalling £2989, of which just over £1400 was on Sevenoaks Town residents. Applicants have been incredibly grateful, and we continue to receive daily messages which are both heartwarming and humbling in their expressions of gratitude. We all feel incredibly lucky and honoured to be part of the Lockdown Larder team.

I hope you agree that your £1,000 Sevenoaks Town donation has been very well spent - we couldn't have got started without it, so we remain very thankful for your support.

As your donation has now been spent, I will make this your last weekly update, but please do ask any time for a progress report, & we would be very glad to provide it.

With many thanks again and best wishes

Claire Ritchie and all the Lockdown Larder team
June 2020

Sevenoaks Larder – Community Resilience Fund Grant, food items donated - £933.01

99 households currently being delivered to, and our operation is growing all the time in response. The number of households supported by Sevenoaks Larder within Sevenoaks Town, is currently 42.

All our grant funding will have been spent on food/stock for the Food Bank, for the 99 households comprising (as of this morning) 134 adults and 133 children.

As you can imagine, this has had a huge benefit to the families who each week receive varying amounts of fresh meat/fish, fresh fruit & veg, up to 14 dry 'store cupboard' ingredients (including hygiene products) , and a share of the supermarket excess fresh food collections from that morning.

I hope that is sufficient for your meeting, but please do let me know if you require further details

Claire Ritchie
February 2021