# Finance and General Purposes Committee – 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023

#### **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	Grant Ref No	Purpose	Grant Award	Date	Report Attached
1	Sevenoaks Summer Festival		2022 Summer Festival	£5,000	28.02.22	Yes
2	Sevenoaks Society		Funding towards exhibition	£500	28.02.22	Yes
3	Sevenoaks Samaritans		Training for volunteers	£1,000	28.02.22	To Follow
4	Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group		Volunteer Transport	£750	28.02.22	Yes
5	West Kent Mediation		Volunteer costs	£750	28.02.22	To Follow
6	Baby Umbrella		Develop & Deliver volunteer sessions	£500	28.02.22	Yes
7	Friends of Rheinbach		Twinning activities	£250	28.02.22	Yes
8	Friends of Pontoise		Twinning activities	£250	28.02.22	Yes
9	Sevenoaks Repair Café		Launch and set up of new project	£1,620	28.02.22	Yes
10	Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival		Hire of piano and performance space	£600	28.02.22	Yes
11	Kent Youth Jazz Orchestra		Youth Jazz Workshop	£500	28.02.22	Yes
12	Art in June		Publication of guides	£250	28.02.22	Yes
13	Sevenoaks Literary Festival		Schools Literary Event	£500	28.02.22	Yes
14	Young Musician of the Year (Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival)	6	Hire of venue & competition standard piano	£600	26.09.22	Yes
15	Baby Umbrella	68	Cost of specialist support fees & venue	£1,380	26.09.22	Yes
16	Sevenoaks History Hub	73	Towards publishing costs of book	£500	26.09.22	Yes
17	Sevenoaks Counselling	11	To supplement bursary fund £1,500 26.09.22		26.09.22	Yes
18	West Kent Mind	62	To deliver mental health£1,00026.09.22awareness workshops		Yes	
19	D'Vine Singers	43	Towards venue hire	£500	26.09.22	Yes

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To Note: The Festival Committee decided not to run the Festival in 2023. The Festival will return in 2024 and may thereafter be biennial.



# Report & Accounts

For the year ended 31 August 2022

# Report of the Organising Committee For the year ended 31 August 2022

#### Well, it was great to be back!!

Our primary objective of showcasing the performing and visual arts happenings in and around Sevenoaks was an undoubted and welcome success, with some 25 local groups presenting around 50 events or performances over the two-week period from Saturday 18 June to Sunday 3 July. In addition, four exhibitions were held during Festival and we promoted Festival Fair on the opening Saturday to the delight of the many parents, children and others who flocked to Bligh's Meadow to welcome us back, and 5 professional or celebrity events over the next 15 days.

These, again, were artistic successes, warmly received by the audiences who enjoyed:

- Eddi Reader and Charlie Dore giving this year's John Smedley Folk Memorial Concert
- An Evening With David Gower humorous and fascinating insights into his world of cricket
- Mrs Churchill My Life With Winston a one-woman drama about Clementine Churchill's life
- If Peter Cook Had Played The Bass a delightfully funny and musically exquisite evening in the company of Roger Carey and Mike Hatchard bringing to life Peter Cook and Dudley Moore
- Swinging At The Cotton Club a fitting Finale Concert as The Harry Strutters Hot Rhythm Orchestra and the Lindy Hop Dance Company transported us in distance and time to 1920s Harlem.

Unfortunately, the financial outcome was rather less than successful, as the following accounts will reveal and is easily explained by a lower than hoped-for turn-out and a fall in the level of sponsorship of our own promotions.

The overall deficit for the year was  $\pounds$ 7,538 after making a provision for payment to PRS for this year's own promotions and writing back  $\pounds$ 1,440 relating to prior year items. This deficit, however, masks a loss on our own promotions of nearly  $\pounds$ 17,500, of which just over  $\pounds$ 7,500 was the net cost of Festival Fair.

We are therefore, exceedingly grateful to:

- Sevenoaks Town Council, for its grant aid as our Principal Sponsor;
- Solicitors Berry & Lamberts, Manak and Knocker & Foskett for sponsoring 3 of our celebrity concerts;
- Francis Jones Jewellers, Hamptons International and Rotosound for sponsorship of Festival Fair music;
- KCC and SDAC for grant aid;
- Berkeley Homes for continuing its support as a Platinum Patron.

We have yet to formulate plans for 2023.

We hope to mount a Festival worthy of the name but possibly with fewer celebrity events and built around the events of community groups – a topic for discussion at our AGM.

Finally, to place on record our shock at the sudden death of our Treasurer, Simon Harris, in March, just as our plans for this year were coming together and to express our gratitude for his superb contributions to our past efforts. RIP

#### Signed on behalf of the Committee by:

Ray Russell

Chairman 17 October 2022

## Sevenoaks Summer Festival

# **Profit and Loss Account**

For the year ended 31 August 2022

	NOTES	2022	202	21
Income				
Subscriptions	2	3,142	965	
Grants utilised	3	6,037	2,036	
Income from Festival events (including sponsorship)		14,672	-	
Other Income		1,379	7	
Total Income		25,230	3,008	
Expenditure				
Publicity	4	6,927	2,110	
Expenditure on Festival Events		26,392	-	
Administrative Costs	5	713	898	
Total Expenditure		34,031	3,008	
Net Operating Deficit (Surplus)		8,801	-	
Prior year items	_	1,440		
Provision for PRS	6	(177)	-	
Net Deficit for year		(7,538)	-	
Balance Sheet				
As at 31 August 2022				
	NOTES	31 AUG 2022	31 AUG 20	021
Net Assets				
Bank and Cash		23,949	34	4,08
add: Debtors		70		7
less: Creditors and Advance Receipts	7	(537)	(3,	,138
Total Net Assets		23,482	31,	,02
Reserves				
Promoted Professional Events Reserve		10,000	12	2,00
Publicity, Administration & General Reserve		13,482	19	9,02
Total Reserves		23,482	31,	,02

# Notes to the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 August 2022

#### 1. Accounting Policies

#### Basis of preparing the financial statements

The statement has been prepared on an accruals basis and under the historical cost convention.

The costs of new flags, flagpoles, banners, pull-up and other display materials are written off in the year of purchase. Amounts paid by flag sponsors in respect of future years are shown within Creditors - see Note 7.

2. Subscriptions	2022	2021
Individuals (incl Friends)	385	689
Companies and Organisations (incl. Participants*)	2,757	276
Subscriptions	3,142	965
Net of card company's charges		
3. Grants		
Sevenoaks Town Council (STC) £5,037 (includes £37 brought forward from 2021)	5,037	2,036
Kent County Council – Cllr Streafeild's discretionary fund	500	-
Sevenoaks District Arts Council	500	-
Grants	6,037	2,036
4. Publicity		2021
Leaflet & poster Printing	768	-
Web-site Design, Hosting & Maintenance	246	616
Advertising and Marketing	4,793	1,494
New banners	995	-
Festival Flags (net of sponsorship)	126	-
Total Publicity	6,927	2,110
5. Management and Administration		
Audit & Accountancy fees	276	276
General Expenses (including purchase of card-reader)	119	125
Subscription and Insurance	318	497
Total Management and Administration	713	898
6. Prior year items		
Payments to performers not accrued in last year's accounts	(310)	-
Amounts written back from 2019 as no longer due	1,750	-
Net total of prior year items	1,440	

#### 7. Creditors and Advance Receipts

Total Creditors and Advance Receipts	537	3,138
Amount held re VAT dispute	-	1,500
Balance of STC Grant not utilised in 2021	-	37
Payments due to Creditors	177	636
Flag sponsorship prepaid for future years	360	965

#### 8. Benefits in Kind

Included within the Income and Expenditure figures above is a total amount of  $\pounds 3,276$  (2021 -  $\pounds 276$ ), being the assessed value of facilities provided to Festival at no cost and recognised as Sponsorship or Patronage. Not included in the above Statement of Financial Activities is the value of goods, services and facilities provided free of charge by volunteers, including committee members and associates.

#### Honorary Independent Examiner's Certificate

I have examined this Statement of Financial Activities, which has been prepared by and is the responsibility of the Committee, with the books and records produced to me and the further information and explanations given to me by the Officers. In my opinion, proper records have been kept of incoming and outgoing resources and the Statement of Financial Activities has been prepared in accordance with those records.

hlat

Mark Lowton, Honorary Independent Examiner

17 October 2022



# **Sevenoaks Summer Festival**

The Festival in its present form was constituted on 2 November 2001 with the following objectives:

"to promote, maintain, improve and advance education by the encouragement of the arts and to formulate, prepare and establish schemes therefore, in particular, but not solely, an annual festival of the arts in and around the town of Sevenoaks."

We aim to showcase the breadth and diversity of local arts activities, augmented by professional events, continuing a tradition begun by Sevenoaks School in 1970.

#### **Organising Committee**

Ray Russell (Chairman & Treasurer) Audrey Franks (Secretary) John Levett (Publicity)

#### Volunteers & Brochure Distribution

John Power

#### Prize Draw Organiser

Kay Thorne

Website: www.sevenoaksfestival.org.uk

Facebook: https://facebook.com/sevenoaksfest

Twitter: @sevenoaksfest

Emails: admin@sevenoaksfestival.org.uk

#### **Postal Address:**

Sevenoaks Summer Festival, Sevenoaks School, Claridge House, High Street, Sevenoaks TN13 1HU

## SEVENOAKS SOCIETY '900 YEARS OF SEVENOAKS TOWN' EXHIBITION

The Sevenoaks Society is most grateful to the Town Council for its Grant of £500 awarded in March 2022 which went towards the costs of mounting a community exhibition commemorating the '900th Year Anniversary of Sevenoaks Town'. Held in the Kaleidoscope Gallery, Sevenoaks library, this was a major exhibition open to all and free of charge. It formed part of the Sevenoaks Summer Festival and was deemed a huge success.

Kent County Councillor, Richard Streatfeild MBE, formally opened the exhibition on 22<sup>nd</sup> June with SDC Chairman Avril Hunter, STC Mayor Rachel Parry, town councillors and other dignitaries in attendance. Concluding on 16<sup>th</sup> July, the exhibition proved extremely popular with local residents of all ages. Guided exhibition tours were given to local schools and others, including Sevenoaks MP Laura Trott who expressed great interest and subsequently wrote promoting the exhibition in her weekly column in the Sevenoaks Chronicle.

Over twenty exhibition panels told the 900-year history of the remarkable town of Sevenoaks from the town's first mention in the 12<sup>th</sup> century *Textus Roffensis* (the Rochester Book) to Sevenoaks' gradual development through the centuries, highlighting in particular Sevenoaks' expansion following the arrival of the railway. Featured themes included Knole, the Historic Town Centre, the old Landed Estates, Farms, former Coaching Inns & Public Houses, Industry, Schools, Churches, Social Housing, Community & Civic buildings, Recreation & Leisure and Changes in the Town Centre. There was also a 'Timeline' panel showing events in Sevenoaks over the centuries on one side and a contemporaneous 'Timeline' of events in England on the other side.

We were fortunate that Rochester Cathedral agreed to loan us a facsimile copy of the *Textus Roffensis* plus a large inter-active touch screen with '*Textus*' content and some printed interpretation. We were therefore able to have a small exhibition display relating to this ancient manuscript which proved a highly popular attraction, not least to Sevenoaks students. This was the first time Rochester Cathedral had loaned such items for a local exhibition and the success of such a display is encouraging them to work with other communities in Kent to publicise the *Textus Roffensis* more widely.

There were also individual exhibition events. Professor David Killingray gave a talk on 29<sup>th</sup> June about his book on the history of Sevenoaks from 1790 to 1914. Local figure Bob Ogley gave a hugely entertaining talk about Kent in the 20<sup>th</sup> century on 6<sup>th</sup> July. Archaeologist Jacob Scott from Rochester Cathedral delivered an absorbing talk about the *Textus Roffensis* on 8<sup>th</sup> July. All three talks were delivered to a packed and appreciative audience.

To give a flavour of visitors' remarks, one wrote as follows: "This exhibition is so needed for us, especially after the last few years when the world has fumbled. But it's totally grounding, exhilarating and fabulous. Thank you for all that contributed and worked towards it. It's simply GENIUS!"

All promotional material bore the STC logo.

A selection of photographs relating to the exhibition is attached.







Sevenoaks Volunteer

Sevenoaks Hospital Hospital Road Sevenoaks Kent TN13 3PH



Registered Charity 276663

Ms Alison Futtit Sevenoaks Town Council Council Offices Bradbourne Vale Road SEVENOAKS TN13 1QG

23 February 2023

Dear Alison

#### Report of funds spent from 2022 Grants

I have pleasure in enclosing our report as above.

The funds received from Sevenoaks Town Council have been spent on maintaining SVTG services in a year where demand has increased. With the Council's support, in the first 8 months of the 2022/23 year, SVTG has provided transport for 91 residents of the Town and made over 630 journeys in total.

The transport was provided by 10 volunteer drivers supported by 3 volunteers in other functions. 10 of the 14 volunteers are Town residents.

Yours sincerely for SEVENOAKS VOLUNTEER TRANSPORT GROUP

Anthony Weston Smith Treasurer

#### Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group Report of funds spent on residents of Sevenoaks Town in the 8 months ended 30 November 2022

Total Expenses for 8 mon	ths	Salaries Driver payments Office costs Other expenses	£7,200 £2,729 £1,286 £105
		Total	£11,320
Passengers in 8 months			
Sevenoaks Town		91	
Other parishes in District		68	
	Total	159	

Proportion of expenses attributable to residents of Sevenoaks Town to which Grant has been applied.

<u>91</u>	х	£11,320	£6,479
159			

Signed:

Jezy The

Treasurer, Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group

# Report on Baby Umbrella grants



Grants provided by Sevenoaks Town Council for 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 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 rised 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. 40% of our initial bookings are made within 7 days of birth, and over two thirds of referrals come from NHS midwifery. 34% of our visitors are struggling with babies not latching, 35% are struggling with overwhelm, anxiety or tearfulness, 44% are in pain from feeding, and 37% are worried about their baby's weight gain. Baby Umbrella provides a safe haven for these vulnerable families.

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

## **STC Volunteer Enrichment grant**

#### Date provided: 07/03/22 Amount provided: £500

#### Project plan:

Development and delivery of two volunteer enrichment sessions for volunteers living in or supporting families living in the Sevenoaks Town Council area.

#### What we did:

We spent the grant on two main areas - enrichment training for volunteers in relation to supporting families with infant sleep struggles; and enrichment development and training for all staff in relation to safeguarding. The funding also enabled us to completely review and enhance our safeguarding policies and processes, and this gives us a strong platform to ensure that safeguarding is fully embedded in everything we do.

#### Who benefitted:

- Infant sleep training 3 STC Peer Supporters (and we expect 4 more to complete this online training in time under these funds)
- Specialist safeguarding training 5 Specialist Practitioners
- DSL safeguarding training 1 Specialist Practitioner
- Safeguarding review and enhancements covers all our 5 Specialist Practitioners, will apply to all our STC volunteers, and will ensure we can keep all our STC beneficiaries safe

#### Spending breakdown:

1-hr presentation and Q&A: Sleep, bonding and lactation; getting back to the facts - external trainer fees	£99.99
1.5hr Specialist safeguarding training - external trainer fees	£150.00
Additional safeguarding training for our Designated Safeguarding Lead	£37.51
Review and enhance safeguarding policies and processes - project work	£212.50
Total:	£500.00

## **STC Specialist Support grant**

Date provided: 27/09/22 Amount provided: £1,380

#### Project plan:

This grant covers specialist support practitioner fees (Lactation Consultants and

Breastfeeding Counsellors) and venue costs for 48 families to receive face to face sessions and 12 families to receive zoom appointments over 6 months between Sep 22 and Mar 23. From our historic data this is the number of Sevenoaks Town Council resident families we tend to see in 6 months.

#### What we did:

This report covers the period of October to December 2022 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 2022, we supported 38 STC resident families with specialist appointments in our face to face settings and 1 STC resident family via Zoom (30 of these appointments were covered with this grant). We are seeing approx 30% more STC families than anticipated and 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-23 to Mar-23.

Here are some recent quotes from our feedback form:

"Completely changed my mood and confidence. Having had a terrible week feeling very low and anxious, I left feeling like I can do this and I'm not a massive failure. Really really changed how I'm doing day to day"

- Sevenoaks resident, Otford appointment - October 2022

"Our visit was unbelievably helpful!! From the specialist lactation consultants to Lisette the Peer Supporter, everyone was so attentive and supportive and made us feel comfortable. I successfully breastfed my baby for the first time and left with a much clearer idea of what to do which I have been able to repeat since being at home. Plus we learned how to use a sling and as a bonus the brownies were absolutely delicious! We also saw friends from our antenatal class while there and it was good to catch up with them. We will certainly be back and are so grateful to have such an amazing service on our doorstep. Thank you!!!" - Sevenoaks resident, In person appointment - December 2022

"I was having a rough night with feeding and at 4am checked how soon I could get a zoom appointment - there was one available later that morning and it both gave me the strength to carry on through the rest of the night and the reassurance that I could get help as soon as possible. Andrea was amazing and the zoom appointment far exceeded my expectations. Things have been going well since. So grateful for Baby Umbrella!"

- Sevenoaks resident, Zoom appointment - December 2022

#### Spending breakdown:

Specialist practitioner fees: Oct to Dec 2022	£690
Total:	£690

This is 50% of the funding we were provided and we anticipate spending the full provision by the end of March 2023.

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



# Report to Sevenoaks Town Council on the use of grant funds awarded to the Friends of Rheinbach in 2022 and related activities

Continuing anxiety with regard to risks of infection hampered Friends of Rheinbach's activities during the first months of 2022. The annual dinner was rescheduled from January to May and, because of the additional problem of disruption to international travel, a hoped for exchange visit to Rheinbach was, reluctantly, put back to the following year.

Early on in the year we initiated a monthly programme of meetings, intended to provide members with an opportunity to socialise informally and to introduce anyone they know who might be interested in learning more about Friends of Rheinbach. Although modest in scale, this initiative has been well received and now constitutes part of our regular programme as we move into 2023.

Early in the year we were asked if it would be possible for us to arrange a short period of work experience for a 17 year old from Rheinbach who wishes to pursue a career in estate management and wanted to see how this is done in the UK. It had been a number of years since we last did anything of this type and the regulations relating to such visits have become more complex since the UK ceased to be part of the EU. Nonetheless, with perseverance and valuable help from the estate management staff at Knole, a suitable and compliant 10 day placement at Knole Park was arranged for June. Accommodation was arranged with a local family and the placement was deemed a success on all sides.

We were also asked if it would be possible to arrange for a 14 year old from Rheinbach to spend two terms at a Sevenoaks school. This proved to be even more difficult, partly because of the complexity of the relevant regulations but also because of the timeframes involved. In the end, it was reluctantly agreed on all sides that such an arrangement would not be feasible on this occasion.

Work experience, and links of various kinds between British and German schools are the kind of topics that get discussed amongst participating members of the British German Association's Kent network of twinning associations. Friends of Rheinbach is an active member of this group which meets, normally via zoom, about three times per year. This networking is valuable, since members with experience in certain areas are very willing to share their expertise with others who may be feeling their way.



www.Friends-of-Rheinbach.org.uk

In addition to the informal members' meetings already mentioned, some more organised events have also been arranged for members. These have been a couple of lunches, an annual walk during the Spring and a talk on an Anglo-German topic, delivered by a guest speaker, following our Annual General Meeting in November. Also, for the second year, we arranged a pre-Christmas zoom link up with our friends in Rheinbach.

One of the consequences of the slow start to our 2022 programme was that the Town Council grant for that year – earmarked to support expenditure on organisational and publicity activities – was underspent by about half. For this reason, we have advised the Council of our intention to carry the balance forward into 2023 rather than apply for a further grant this year. Our objectives for activities and the use of grant funds remain the same as stated in our 2022 grant application. Hence, the 2022 grant will, in effect, provide much appreciated support across a two-year period during which we will, as usual, participate in the annual Town Meetings and supply annual reports on our activities and use of grant funds.

Friends of Rheinbach is, as always, most grateful to Sevenoaks Town Council for its continued support in the form of an annual grant. As a twinning association we are always looking for ways of strengthening the links between the administrative bodies of both towns as well as at a cultural and social level.

In addition to a continuation of the sort of activities described above, our main objective for the current year is a successful resumption of annual exchange visits between Sevenoaks and Rheinbach. Because of the disruption caused by both the pandemic and its aftermath it will be five years since Friends of Rheinbach last travelled to Germany. Dates for a visit during 2023 have already been agreed and we are looking forward to welcoming members of 'Freunde von Sevenoaks' to our town in 2024.

Friends of Rheinbach January 2023



www.Friends-of-Rheinbach.org.uk



#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2022**

I would like to begin by putting on record our sorrow at the news of the death of Margret Wittgrefe, founder chairman of Freunde von Sevenoaks who worked closely with Gillian Theaker, our own founder chairman, to make sure that our two twinning associations got off to the best possible of starts. As I think you know, I sent a formal letter of condolence on our behalf to Freunde von Sevenoaks, and we were represented by Gillian and Tony Theaker at Margret's funeral. Subsequently, Giliian has commented on how good it was after all the disruption caused by the pandemic to meet up again with many old friends in Rheinbach.

The customary start to this year's programme, the New Year's dinner, scheduled originally for February, had to be postponed in the light of many members' understandable caution about attending social events whilst the Omicron variant was so prevalent. The dinner eventually took place in May but with fewer members attending than the minimum number that Stephanie, our usual caterer, was prepared to cater for. Not wishing to lose the booking fee for Otford village hall, whose manager was prepared to transfer our booking, I proposed that we should rebrand the event as 'A Dinner with a Difference', undertaking myself to cook the main course, and gladly accepting offers from Margaret to provide a starter, and Stella to provide the desserts. With people bringing their own crockery and cutlery there was a minimum of washing up to be done on site, and with everyone lending a hand the clearing-up at the end was quickly and efficiently accomplished, and the event deemed to have been a very successful and enjoyable occasion.

Another 'almost innovation' in our year was the provision of a ten-day work experience opportunity for a 17 year-old lad, Jakob, from Rheinbach. I say 'almost innovation' because those of you who have been members since the early days of our twinning association will recall that under the chairmanship of Gillian Theaker, work experience exchanges for young people from Rheinbach and Sevenoaks took place on a regular basis for a number of years. Most commonly placements were provided by each town's independent bookshop. This year's placement was very different. Jakob's work experience was a compulsory part of his school programme for his penultimate year, but it was his idea to try to carry it out abroad. Already knowing that he wants a career in land management once he leaves school, Jakob hoped for work experience in a related field (no pun intended!). I was successful in securing Jakob a placement with the Knole Estate team, who made him very welcome and provided a varied mix of jobs for him to do. The German Department of Sevenoaks School came up with a host family who provided enviable accommodation (a bedroom with its own bathroom), and Reg Oakley



kindly provided a bicycle. The greatest challenge was trying to find out what the immigration rules were for such situations, whether a visa would be necessary, and whether un-remunerated work experience could be undertaken legally. Fortunately, Jakob's visit took place a couple of months before he turned 18. Had he been an adult, things would have been a lot more complicated.

Hot on the heels of being asked to try to find a placement for Jakob, I received a request from Joachim Weiss to see if I could find a grammar school place for a 14 year-old boy who had decided he wanted to spend at least two terms in an English school. This proved to be impossible, though not for want of trying. Even the boy's father, a headmaster with long experience of arranging pre-Brexit school exchange trips, had to concede that he had no head magisterial influence he could bring to bear.

Work experience, and links of various kinds between British and German schools are the kind of topics that get discussed amongst participating members of the BGA's Kent network of twinning associations. Under the chairmanship of Peter Brown from Bromley's association we have continued to meet via Zoom roughly once a term, most recently on 2<sup>nd</sup> November. This networking is valuable, since members with experience in certain areas are very willing to share their expertise with others who may be feeling their way. So far as Friends of Rheinbach is concerned it led to the idea of possible coach sharing next year with the Ashford twinning association when they visit their partner town of BadMünstereifel, which as many of you know, is conveniently close to Rheinbach. As this issue forms a separate item on our agenda I will leave until later to say more.

Reverting to our own social programme, the annual Spring Walk took place on Sunday 3rd April in the area around the village of Weald, followed by an excellent lunch in The Windmill pub. Once again we are indebted to Di Outram and Margaret Willis for their organization of this event. Conscious of the fact that without a visit this summer either from or to our friends in Rheinbach the months between the Spring Walk and today's AGM were looking rather forlorn, Margaret suggested that a lunch together would serve as a tonic. So it was that around fifteen members met for an enjoyable lunch at The White Rock Inn in Underriver in the second week of September. The food and service were excellent, and it was indeed a most convivial occasion; our grateful thanks go to Margaret for this initiative. Another initiative this past year, this one the brain-child of Laura Covill, has been the establishing of a social gathering on the fourth Wednesday evening of each month, held in the very pleasant surroundings of The King's Head pub in Bessells Green. The objective of this monthly event is not only to provide an occasion for current members to meet up should they wish, but also, through the creation of a Friends of Rheinbach page on Facebook and thus advertising the event, to attract others who might be curious and even become members. To date attendees have fluctuated in



number between, I think, three and ten, but as Laura is going to speak to us later about her hopes for this venture I will trespass no further.

As I draw my remarks to a close I wish as always to put on record the grateful thanks of Friends of Rheinbach to Sevenoaks Town Council for its continued support in the form of an annual grant, and to say that as a twinning association we are always looking for ways of strengthening the links between the administrative bodies of both towns as well as at a cultural and social level.

Now it is my pleasure to voice my thanks to Margaret for making the arrangements for this evening's meeting, and to my fellow committee members for their support over the past year. Lastly, and partly as a reminder to myself, May I point you to agenda item 9 when we will share the current state of our planning for our New Year dinner to which I hope many of you will be able to come.

Peter Young

November 2022



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Grant Report to the F&GP Committee, Sevenoaks Town Council C/O Alison Futtit Senior Committee Clerk

19.02.2023

#### F&GP Grant of £250 awarded to Friends of Pontoise in 2022

In May 2022, members of our group visited Pontoise, the French town twinned with Sevenoaks. The grant of £250 covered the cost of a canvas print of both groups and other gifts totalling £124.50. These were presented to Les Amis de Sevenoaks and the Pontoise Town Council.



Canvas presented to Pontoise Town from Sevenoaks in May 2022

The remaining £125.50 of the grant is retained and added to fund the next visit of Sevenoaks Town guests from Pontoise 18 - 21 May 2023.

Two visits by Les Amis were cancelled during the Covid pandemic. This allowed us to donate £250 to the Ukraine Appeal in 2022.

This February, 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

Our website, friendsofpontoise.com has the Sevenoaks Town Council's logo at the top of the first page. To maintain this website cost us £286.56 for 2022/23

We will attend the Annual Town Meeting on 13th March 2023

With regards and thanks

Evy Drew Co-Chair Michael Pembrey Co-Chair/Sec/Treasurer

www.friendsofpontoise.com email: friendsofpontoise@gmail.com

# REPAIR CAFE

#### Sevenoaks Town Council – Grant Funding Report for 2022 award

#### Amount Granted - £1,620.00

The Sevenoaks Repair Café launched in April 2022 with the following aims:

- To protect and safeguard the environment for the public benefit through the promotion of repair and re-use of products as a means of preventing and minimising waste disposal
- To pass on skills to those having items repaired at the café
- At the same time to promote social inclusion through volunteering and the provision of a community café

We have been able to run nine cafés so far (including seven in 2022 and January/ February in 2023). During that time we registered 439 visitors with items for repair. 232 items were fully or partially repaired. Our repairers gave advice on 68 items. 12 items didn't need repairing. The most common items brought in were small electricals – 169 in total, followed by mechanical items at 107.

Every café had a most wonderful positive feeling and we have received a lot of positive feedback from both visitors and volunteers. During the year, as the cost of living crisis hit we made the decision that as well as repairs being available for a donation or where not affordable for free, hot drinks and cakes would be on offer for suggested donations rather than at fixed prices.

The funding that Sevenoaks Town Council granted us was spent as follows:

1.	Venue hire (St Luke's Church) April 2022 to March 2023	£700.00
2.	Repair Manager - online booking system (reducing paper usage)	
	April 2022 to March 2023	£360.00
3.	LED Magnifying Lamps x 8 (used by the repairers for close work)	£234.92
4.	PAT machine and labels (essential for safety and to comply with insurance)	£320.50
5.	Consumables (blu tack and drawing pins – for posters and flyers)	£5.79

#### Total

£1,621.21

As planned, the café will now be self-funding going into its second year, based on the visitor donation levels that we have received, which we are delighted about.

The Repair Café couldn't happen without our fabulous group of volunteers (now 58 in number) – not only the repairers, who are key in helping visitors with their items and passing on their knowledge, but also all our volunteers who support the welcome, registration, smooth running of the system and provision of hot drinks and homemade cakes every session.

We would like to wholeheartedly thank Sevenoaks Town Council for their generous grant which played a crucial part in helping us to launch Sevenoaks Repair Café last year. It is a privilege and a joy to bring this event to the community.

Our Facebook page can be found here: <u>https://www.facebook.com/SevenoaksRepairCafe</u>

Below is a gallery of some of the photographs taken during the café sessions:













# Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival

Registered Charity No 1031815

### 2022 Festival Report to Sevenoaks Town Council

The Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival, the town's annual competitive performing arts Festival, returned as a live event after a gap of three years. The number of entries in the music sections exceeded expectations, with Strings, Wind and Adult Vocal all significantly higher than prepandemic levels. Speech and Drama, previously our largest section, has been particularly hit by covid restrictions and will take time to recover. For many children, this was their first opportunity to perform in pubic. Parents too, were often attending a Festival for the first time and were delighted with the positive experience it had in inspiring their children. We received more group entries than usual, with teachers informing us that it was their intention to get those children involved in solo performances in 2023. The two weekends of competitions involved some 600 school age children, most from the surrounding area and 100 adults. Our venue at Walthamstow Hall Senior School has excellent facilities in terms of pianos, performing space, practice rooms and refreshment areas. This year we altered our festival entrance to The Hub, which provided a light, covered space for competitors to meet and relax. Nearby was a café run by students from the School, who are using the proceeds to fund overseas tours.

At The Prizewinners' Concert, which brought the Festival to a close on Saturday 25 June, the audience were treated to a feast of entertainment, demonstrating the variety and high standards reached across the age ranges. Awards were presented by our President Lord Sackville, and the STC and SDC Chairs were official guests.

We are exceedingly grateful to the Sevenoaks Town Council for its valued and generous support, which enables us to acquire high quality pianos for the Festival's music classes and contributes towards the hire of the venue.

Susan Day Festival Secretary www.sevenoaksthreeartsfestival.co.uk



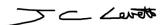
# Report to Sevenoaks Town Council - Use of Grant Report - Kent Youth Jazz Orchesatra(KYJO) - Youth Jazz Workshop in 2022





KYJO playing at Sevenoaks Summer Festival Fair Day prior to the Workshop on the following Tuesday.

The Youth Jazz Workshop was held at Weald of Kent Grammar School on Tuesday 21st June 2022 as an event within The Sevenoaks Summer Festival to give it extra publicity. Thirty one young musicians benefited from the Workshop that was run by Celebrity Guest Tutor Karen Sharp. All the publicity acknowledged the sponsorship of The Sevenoaks Town Council.



John Levett, KYJO Chairman Kent Youth Jazz Orchestra Big Band - Swing - Latin - Funk



Registered Charity: 1149477 Patrons: **Steve Waterman & Derek Nash** 

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ART IN JUNE OPEN STUDIOS www.artinjune.org

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

20 February 2022

Dear Ms. Futtit,

#### Report on Grant Award from Sevenoaks Town Council, 2022

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 printing costs of our Art in June guide book for 2022.

Art in June was proud and honoured to acknowledge this support on the cover of our Guide books along with the Sevenoaks Town Council logo. (see photo attached).

The residents of Sevenoaks continue to show a huge interest in the Open Studios event. My own studio at Dibgate attracted over 700 visitors during the Art in June fortnight including both "repeat" visitors and first-time visitors to the Open Studios event.

The Art in June event helps to foster interest in all of the visual arts, for both practitioners and for the visitors who enjoy getting a hands on feel for just how the various works are produced by the artists and craftworkers involved. Many interesting discussions take place and sometimes visitors are even inspired to have a go themselves, and take up a new interest, or even host their own open studio event a few years down the line.

In the end 11,000 guides were printed and distributed by the 55 artists to all good shops, libraries, leisure centres, schools, pubs, restaurants, dentists, hairdressers etc. This careful distribution raised the profile of both Art in June and the support of the Sevenoaks Town Council. You can see the display in Sevenoaks Library in photo attached. Plus also some photos of our yellow bike trademark as displayed in front of the Leisure Centre.

We also used the Guides during our "Launch Art in June Event" which took place outside the Stag Theatre on Saturday, 28 May from 10 - 1. Artists prepared a table with leaflets and guides and draped one of the banners on the table. Artists took it in turn to man the table and the pavements in Sevenoaks, chatting to members of the public who were passing and distributing guides and maps to Art in June.

I am certain that a representative from our group will be able to attend the Annual Town Meeting on Monday, 13 March in order to demonstrate to the general public how the grant funds have been spent and the benefits accrued.

Yours sincerely,

Debra Barr-Smith, Art in June Co-ordinator









#### Teaching the adults a lesson School children respond with wit and wisdom at the annual schools event organized by Sevenoaks Literary Festival and sponsored by Sevenoaks Town Council

#### Report on the grant received (2022) from Sevenoaks Town Council

On Wednesday 02 November 2022 over 300 students from four of the town's state primary schools attended the annual special event for schools held by Sevenoaks Literary Festival.

This was the first schools event held in person after the restrictions of the pandemic lockdowns.

Despite sitting cross-legged on the hard floor of the main hall at Sevenoaks Primary, the students were held spell-bound for well over an hour by the author Helen Dennis. Helen is the author of many books for children including two series of adventure novels - about codes and code-breaking. The six books in the *Secret Breakers* series are aimed at readers aged 8+ whilst the four books of the *River of Ink* series cater for readers aged 10+.

Helen wrote her first full length book at the age of eleven in the garden shed specially kitted out by her Dad. Inspired by *The Hobbit* and set in outer space, Helen showed the book typed up by her Gran - to an inspirational teacher at her school. He encouraged her to send it to a publisher. Although she received a very supportive response it was almost three decades later before she was finally published.

Listening to Helen speak, the children attending the Sevenoaks Literary Festival event were themselves inspirational. Bursting with highly perceptive questions, they also excelled at being able to decode the messages conveyed during an interactive session by many very well-known logos and brands. There was certainly more than one adult in the hall left floundering in the face of the quick-fire responses from the students all of whom were from years 5 and 6. Their ability to see through the subliminal messaging of contemporary advertising was extremely encouraging in a world which seems soaked in such powerful media.

The annual schools event is a vital part of Sevenoaks Literary Festival which celebrated its 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in 2022. As always, it was generously sponsored by a grant from Sevenoaks Town Council and was supported – as are all the events during the Festival – by Sevenoaks Bookshop.

Roger Lee Sevenoaks Literary Festival 17 February 2023

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# Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival

Registered Charity No 1031815

Affiliated to The British and International Federation of Festivals

*Festival Secretary* Sue Day

Tues 3rd Jan 2023

To : Sevenoaks Town Council

From : Susan Day, Secretary, Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival

Re : Young Musician of the Year Competition 2023

To Be Held : Sunday 5 March 2023 at Walthamstow Hall Senior School, Sevenoaks

The Sevenoaks Three Arts Festival is hugely grateful for the £600 grant received for the 2023 Sevenoaks Young Musician Competition. The grant will be applied toward the venue costs and grand piano needed for this prestigious competition. At this point in time, we are actively promoting the Competition by printing and distributing entry forms to leading national music schools and are pleased that a number of entries have already been received. In order to ensure this festival is on a sound financial footing, with a first prize equivalent with other competitions, we are delighted to have Sevenoaks Sound and Vision providing the £1000 first prize and look forward to their continuing involvement with us.

The charity has entered into commitments to hire the venue with grand piano and has engaged British & International Federation of Festivals approved adjudicators Ms Alison Moncrieff-Kelly and Mr Jeremy Carter. Insurance has been renewed and a request for a deposit for the venue is expected. The balance of the Performance venue and Piano hire cost, all Prizes and Adjudicator fees are paid on the day, or shortly after.



### Sevenoaks Young Musician of the Year Competition 2022

After the disappointment of not being able to hold the Competition in 2021 due to the covid pandemic, this year's Sevenoaks Young Musician of the Year Competition took place at Walthamstow Hall Senior School on Sunday 6 March. Twelve young instrumentalists, ranging in age from 12 to 21 – eight violinists, two pianists, one cellist and a clarinettist, 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 Town Council Prize of £1,000, and the title of Sevenoaks Young Musician of the Year 2022, was 21-year-old clarinettist **Stefan Bulyha**, a Ukrainian currently studying in London, who was also given the opportunity of a concerto performance with the Lydian Orchestra at their December concert. For his winning recital, Stefan played Igor Stravinsky's Three Pieces for solo Clarinet and Witold Lutoslawski's Five Dance Preludes with accordion accompaniment. The second prize, the Sevenoaks School Prize of £500, went to 15-year-old **Sasha Parker** (violin) and third was **Sofia Demetriades**, a 13-year-old violinist, 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 Town Council for its support in providing the money for the first prize; to Sevenoaks School and T.A Craig Violin Restorer for the second and third prizes; and to its other sponsors Sevenoaks District Arts Council, Sevenoaks Music Club and the Lydian Orchestra.



Winner Stefan Bulyha with Mayor Cllr Merilyn Canet



The three prize winners with Cllr Canet, Lord Sackville and the two adjudicators, Alison Moncrieff-Kelly and Jeremy Carter

# **Sevenoaks History Hub**

#### Grant Award Update

I am very grateful to the Town Council for the generous amount awarded for this project last year. The Council has always been generous in its sponsorship of my research and work in celebrating the rich history of the town. However, as the sum awarded was a little less than anticipated, I am in the process of seeking local private sponsorship, as well as funding the project myself. Therefore, the money awarded has yet to be spent and is lodged in an account with match funding from myself.

I am due to meet my designer and printer in early April and am aiming to have the book published in the autumn, when I will be able to provide a full update to the Committee.

I hope that this is acceptable and meets your requirements for the time being.

With best wishes

Matthew Ball Sevenoaks History Hub

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#### SEVENOAKS COUNSELLING - REPORT TO SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL - 2022-2023

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 SC 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 face-to-face 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. Building on skills gained during the pandemic has enabled us to reach residents who previously were unable to access counselling with us. 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 held up quite well during the past year. This had the effect of limiting the operational deficit in our accounts to some £24,000. It is gratifying to note that the grants we received together with gifts from other sources enabled us to cover this deficit in 2022-23. It will be a challenge to repeat this in 2023-24, however, as the cost of providing the service rises in line with 10%+ inflation.

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

Lucinda Wright Trustee February 2023

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Grant Award from Sevenoaks Town Council in Sept 2022 - £1,000

Purpose: towards the costs of delivering mental health awareness workshops over 6 months for residents of Sevenoaks Town.

We planned to deliver two 3-hour Mental Health Awareness workshops thanks to the funding provided by Sevenoaks Town Council.

The workshops were aimed at anyone in a customer support / contact role in the community with the aims being:

- Increased knowledge of the signs and symptoms of poor mental wellbeing
- Confidence to initiate a supportive conversation
- Greater understanding of boundaries and self-care
- Increased awareness of support services available locally (and nationally)

#### Session 1 – via Zoom – Monday 20 February 6-9pm

This was very well received and we are currently collecting feedback. We had 9 attendees (out of a total of 15 registrants).

#### Session 2 – in person – planned for Friday 24 February

Despite out best efforts to promote this workshop, we have had to take the decision to postpone due to low attendance numbers.

I propose that we take the opportunity of the Annual Town Meeting to increase interest for a revised date of end March 2023 (exact details TBC). This will be held in a town centre location.

**Ceri Hodgkiss** Training & Development Manager 21<sup>st</sup> February 2023

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# REPORT FOR SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL: 2022-23

#### About the D'Vine Singers

The D'Vine Singers was set up as part of a Kent-wide research study, which confirmed the benefits of singing on mental wellbeing. We were keen to continue as an independent group once the NHS/KCC funding expired and have since been grateful to receive grants from community funders. This has allowed us to offer singing sessions for Sevenoaks residents with mental health problems and others who enjoy singing in a supportive group. We meet weekly in term-time for a session of community singing – open to all without the need to read music. In particular, the funding from Sevenoaks Town Council has motivated us to focus our publicity and performances in and around the town and immediate locality.

#### Numbers in the organisation

- The group employs a professional community choirleader with experience in mental health and wellbeing.
- We have a Committee of 6 volunteers, made up of members from the group, including chair, secretary and treasurer

Attendance varies greatly from week to week because of the health needs of our members, which means people are sometimes absent because of poor physical health or medical appointments. Numbers dropped significantly during the pandemic, when we transferred to a Zoom service, but are now beginning to pick up again and we have around 16 people attending on average, boosted by a group with learning disabilities who attend from a Sevenoaks day centre with their KCC supporters.

#### Breakdown of costs

The grant from Sevenoaks Town Council has contributed towards our running costs and has enabled us to increase the choirleader's fee slightly from £80 to £90 per week, which we felt was a fair reflection of her work and the higher costs associated with it. We believe it is important to bring in a professional with experience in the field of mental health, as some of our members have complex issues so it is necessary to establish a group dynamic that will work for everyone, as well as repertoire that offers sufficient challenge to provide distraction from everyday life without creating further stress. However, we understand that the choirleader's rate is very modest and accept that she undertakes a lot of work for the group on a voluntary basis.

We currently don't charge members to attend, as struggles with health can make it difficult for some to hold down paid employment and we would not wish anyone to be deterred from singing for financial reasons, especially in the current financial climate.

#### Contributions to community activities in the town

Coming out of the pandemic, we were very cautious about meeting in the room together and set out a careful risk assessment, bearing in mind the vulnerability of some of our members. We continue to keep some of the safety measures in place, such as social distancing and hand sanitisers, and provide pre-packaged snacks for our 'comfort breaks'. We are fortunate to have a hygienic and easily ventilated venue in the Vine Baptist Church, which gives us the confidence to feel secure in building up our numbers.

We are still a little nervous about performing in small, confined spaces but enjoyed the chance to get involved in community life again during the autumn. To celebrate our 8<sup>th</sup> birthday in October, we invited several visitors, including the Mayor of Sevenoaks, Cllr Rachel Parry and consort, who joined in the singing, despite the chilly temperature! We also attended and performed at the Sevenoaks Volunteer Fair that month, hoping to encourage visitors to join our Befriending scheme. The aim is for Singing Befrienders to help anyone who needs a bit of support to attend – because they have difficulty with transport, need help organising song sheets or simply because they're anxious about joining a new activity.

We especially enjoyed being out and about in the community at Christmas, when we sang at the Community Carol Service at St Luke's Church and in the Great Hall at Knole. We also renewed some of our earlier links with local nursing homes and dementia cafés. We hope to build on these in the coming months and, as the weather improves, perhaps sing again on the nearby Vine cricket ground at one of the festivals that take place in that lovely setting,

#### Feedback from members

We will be carrying out an updated survey of members' attitudes in advance of our AGM in March. In the meantime, I can report that a summary of responses to our Feb 2020 survey showed that people found the sessions "enjoyable" and "uplifting" and described the group as "friendly". The social aspect of the group was very much highlighted:

"Brings me out of myself and I enjoy singing at various venues around Sevenoaks."

"It has been a big help with everyone being friendly and a great boost for our moods."

"Performing locally at Christmas and at care homes has been most rewarding."

"I thoroughly enjoy attending, feel happier and it has improved my health and wellbeing."

"I don't usually continue with a hobby but singing comes very high at the top of my list. Feel more happy, relaxed and uplifted each time I attend."

"Singing is very uplifting and ... the group is very friendly ... something to look forward to."

"The singing group brings everyone together and we look out for each other and give support to each other... You go out feeling better than when you went in."

"The group is uplifting and very friendly. Singing is important ... to lift your spirits. It is good for the soul! All different types of people come and it helps everyone."

### Jacky Híntze

On behalf of the D'Vine Singers



