

In Touch

Summer 2018



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Joanne Creighton CEO

Springtime has been particularly wonderful this year at COT. Not only have we been treated to the all the usual natural delights of our countryside surroundings, but it has also brought many opportunities to spread the word about our amazing charity. The Bluebell Cream Tea, Poulton Wood Open Day, Care Services Open Day, Beaney exhibition in Canterbury, Wealden Fair and Heathfield Agricultural Show have all been fabulous opportunities to showcase our work and give the wider community a sense of what makes us so special. Spreading that message is essential, as it helps us garner the public support that we really could not do without. Helping our current and potential future supporters to know and love us as much as we do is a key part of our work. Luckily, we rarely have to try too hard – our incredible service users and their many achievements speak for themselves.



A very visible sign of the faith our supporters have in the work of COT is the rapidly emerging outline of the new Life Skills Academy – look out for the article on pages 16 and 17 which highlights the enormous debt of gratitude we owe to the individuals and organisations who believed in our vision and helped to fund the project. With just the equipment left to fundraise for, we are almost at the finish line on a long but extremely successful campaign. Reaching this point is, however, a bitter-sweet time for me as it means that I must finally let Angela Phipps move on. You may recall that she actually ‘left’ over 18 months ago, but was persuaded to give ‘just a few more weeks’ of her time to help us raise the build costs for the Academy. That she stuck with us when those weeks turned into months is a measure of her loyalty and dedication. I have spoken before in these pages of the hole that Angela will leave behind her at COT. The new Academy – which will make real difference to the lives of so many of our students, now and into the future – changed from vision to reality because of her considerable efforts. I cannot think of a more fitting legacy for her time at the Trust.

Speaking of bricks and mortar legacies, Martyn Boakes from Estates will leave behind a fair few of those following his retirement in May. During an incredible 25 years of service for COT, Martyn has certainly left his mark in many ways, both on the buildings themselves and the folks who live and work within them. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his efforts and wish him the very best of luck for the future. (I still think that brick-built electrical shed looks wonky, though...!)

Finally, I'd like to highlight a project that may be of interest to many of our In Touch readers. I have been fortunate to be invited, along with our service user Ben Hillman, to join the Steering Group of a research programme currently being undertaken by the learning disability specialists at The Tizard Centre (part of the University of Canterbury).

With funding from the NIHR School for Social Care Research, they are exploring life skills training programmes through a range of discussions with service users, family members and service providers. They are seeking to find out who attends these programmes and to learn more about their experiences, the benefits, barriers and outcomes. Although a number of Canterbury Oast Trust parents kindly agreed to attend a Focus Group meeting for family members in June, there were not sufficient numbers to make the meeting viable. The researchers are hoping to reschedule the meeting later in the summer and I do hope that those who have not already signed up might consider getting involved. The project has the potential to be enormously useful in helping to make the case for continued funding for day services, so we are throwing all our support behind the researchers and their work. Those not able to attend a meeting in Canterbury can opt to have a one-to-one discussion in a location of their choice instead – there is lots of flexibility. If you are willing to take part, please let us know – I know the researchers would be very keen to hear your views.

Carol Senior—From the office

As I write this, I am reliably informed that it is National Biscuit Day. Well, enough said, we don't need any encouragement in this office to stock the coffers with biscuits! Mind you, I could certainly do without any encouragement along those lines as my bathroom scales are very quick to inform me. I do therefore have to admire the efforts of at least a couple of our CSS tenants who are looking a lot slimmer of late, and also are noticeably quicker on their feet. So a big well done to all you slimmers out there who are showing us all how it is done (or indeed who are struggling to harness that elusive willpower in order to swerve the biscuit round). I could certainly use some tips on that one.

So, what has been happening in and around Care services over the past few weeks? On the care accommodation side we have had a few CQC inspections. Rosemary Cottage did fantastically well to hold on to their "outstanding" rating in the *Caring* category, Homelands and Old School House also achieved a "good" overall result. Currently we are still awaiting reports from more recent inspections at Holly and Ivy Cottages. Old School House have also welcomed new resident Chris Keogh. Chris has been accessing our Life Skills services for quite some time and everyone was pleased to see that he was successful with his funding application for a residential placement and it is fantastic to see how quickly he has settled in to his new home.

I understand that it shouldn't be too long now until the Beaver Lodge extension is finished too. It will be exciting to see who will benefit from this prime opportunity for supported living placements with the Trust.

In terms of Life Skills services, there always seems to be so much going on. Poulton Wood Bluebell Cream Tea was a notable success, as was the woodlands open day. Art at the Farm installed their new exhibition over at the Beaney House of Art & Knowledge in Canterbury in May, and several services attended the Wealden Fair recently, so it is a veritable hive of industry out there.

The new Pathfinders course is now up and running, with the first ever cohort getting to grips with learning all about cultures and practices in the working world, how to identify skills and knowledge that would be useful to employers, how to prepare CV's and what they need to do to get ready for interviews. Juliet Perschky, the Work and Employment Coordinator, is certainly working hard to help our service users to get themselves ready for future employment or voluntary placements. Indeed one early success has been with the help and encouragement extended to Faye Price who was successfully mentored in applying for a flexi post at the Granary restaurant. Well done to Faye for achieving this tremendous milestone. With the first Pathfinders course now being about half way through, Juliet would love to hear from any service users who may be interested in joining the second cohort. We know some of you may think it is a little early in the day to be identifying new students for the next course, but the preparation, funding, and decision-making process can take a while, so it helps to set things in place well in advance.

Juliet Perschky—Work & Employment

It's great to be working with the four students who have joined the first Pathfinders – Employability Life Skills Programme. We have been working hard to identify our individual strengths, character and personal interests and exploring the job or volunteering roles to which we are most suited. We have been writing our own CV's and have just begun to use the Internet to research local businesses and explore how to look for work online.

We have been working with Ashford College who are delivering a 5 day ITQ – Level 1 course to help us improve our digital skills to help us look for and apply for work online, write CV's and covering letters. Pathfinders are planning a trip out as a group to visit some local businesses that match our interests.

Some students have re-activated some dormant skills - Becky has begun to spin wool from local Romney Marsh sheep and is preparing to create and sell some hand woven rugs. Lisa is enjoying being a voluntary dog walker for a lovely dog called "Toffee" and John is in the process of becoming a Conservation Volunteer at Samphire Hoe.



Awards Ceremony 6th June

Photos by Paul Sanderson

Awards given out on the day: 53 First Aid course certificates, 54 Health & Safety course certificates, 49 City & Guild certificates. Congratulations to all of you!



Old School House

By Charles Leach

I have been horse riding at Grove Farm, and I really enjoyed it. I have been riding a lovely brown horse called "Mama". I haven't been horse riding in a while but I did remember everything that I have previously learnt. I have been on holiday with my dad and we went to France. We got there by ferry, which was really exciting.

By Sarah Dorrington

I have been enjoying the sunshine, having loads of days out. I went to Hastings Country Park, I enjoyed a lovely picnic and played loads of games like giant badminton and frisbee. I went to Folkestone harbour arm and watched some live music, which I loved.



By Gracie Croft

My name is Gracie Croft I am now living at Old School House. I have made lots of new friends and have become more independent, which I am really happy with. I have been on lots of exciting trips out, like going to the zoo, shopping trips (I can shop till I drop), having picnics and trips to the beach. Last time I went to the beach I got buried in the stones; this was great fun. I had a trip out with my friend Charles and did some shopping. I had a great time and laughed a lot. I went to Festability and they had loads of live music. I absolutely loved this day out, I got my face painted and danced my socks off. I had lots of fun with my friends and staff and couldn't stop laughing all day.



By Chris Keogh

Hi, my name is Chris Keogh and I have recently moved into Old School House. I love living here as I am learning something new every day. I have just started to do football on a Wednesday with 5 a side fun. I am really enjoying this as football is my passion and I'm a huge Chelsea fan. I am now able to go to new Romney high street independently, as I have done my travel training. I am very pleased with myself.



Old School House - Annie & Staff

We have had a busy few months here at Old School House. We have filled our 2 vacancies and welcomed Grace and Chris to join our busy fun house! They have both settled in very well. There have been some swapping of life skills for some: Charles has been doing horse riding at Grove Farm in Iden and will be doing this on a regular basis. Daniel has enrolled in City and Guilds and is now working within a different group on the farm.

On 12th May we all went to a music festival called 'Festability'. We did this to celebrate 25 years that Old School House has been open. The festival was at Quex park, it was a fantastic day with loads of live music and stalls, all set in a safe environment.

Check out www.festability.co.uk to see what they are all about. We will definitely be going next year if they repeat it and would highly recommend others to go. It was a little wet at the end of the day but it didn't spoil the fun.



We would like to say a big "thank you" to Scavengers car club who donated £300 to our funds, which covered the cost. Also a big thank you to Andy who kindly drove the mini bus filled with folding chairs, packed lunches and some very excited staff and residents. Here are some pictures from our fantastic day out!

Farmhouse - by Nick and Thomas

We enjoyed the afternoon at the Poulton Woods Cream Tea. What a gorgeous sunny day it was and the Blue Bells were in full bloom. Thank you to Lyn and all who helped to organise such a wonderful day for us to enjoy.

We want to say Thank you to The Friends of COT for their very kind donation towards our summer activities this year and to Mrs Richards (Ricky's Nan) for sending a kind and generous donation towards a treat for our holiday to Butlins in July. We are all looking forward to our holiday.

We are all working with our keyworkers to plan days out over the summer months and hoping for some warm sunny days. We are all going together on The Kingfisher Boat trip in July and September, which we all enjoy every year.



Some of us went on a football weekend in May to Marlie Farm, which was organised by Margot. We all had a fun weekend. Thank you to Margot and Mike for organising the weekend for us to enjoy.



Last but definitely not least congratulations to Ellie and Phil on the birth of their beautiful baby girl Ophelia Primrose, who was born on the 13th May.

From Symon Peter Young - Jasmine House

On Saturday 21st April I attended - along with friends and family, including Tamsyn, Stephen, Sadie, Karen and Peter - a wedding. My niece Hannah Young-Browne married Simon Charles Weaver at Staple Parish Church, near Canterbury in Kent.

Afterwards they enjoyed a ride in a stunning white car used for the bride and groom, which took them to Littlebourne Barn. The happy couple then jetted off on their honeymoon to the Caribbean for a sunny 2 weeks.



From Anna Pearson-Wood - Jasmine House

On the 28th March I won the first prize raffle, with ticket number 452, at my local GP surgery. In the large basket of prizes I won 10 chocolate bunnies, a large Celebrations Easter egg, three small bottles of port, a lamb chocolate lolly, two boxes of chocolate truffles and a Peter Rabbit keepsake egg.

I gave one of the bunnies to Karen, my friend, for Easter. I gave my sister in law a bottle of port and I shared some of the truffle chocolates to staff.



Nick Sanderson - Warren Mews & Nick Reed - Ellis Drive

On Tuesday 27 March 2018 at Poulton Wood, Nick Reed and Nick Sanderson did a guided tour of the woods as part of their education towards their City & Guilds certificates.

The two Nicks pointed out various features of the wood as the walk progressed, such as the wild bees that lived in a high hole in a tree trunk and the identity of a number of trees and plants. A squirrel running up a tree prompted a discussion on how squirrels build nests rather like birds do, though these are called dreys when they are the work of squirrels.



Part of the tour included the extensive bluebell areas. Because the bluebell season was still to come the flowers were not yet in evidence, but wood anemones and primroses could be seen instead. Did you know that in worldwide terms bluebells are rare? Here in the British Isles we think of them as quite common, but that is because this is where most of them grow.

Michelle - Art at the Farm

Here at Art at the Farm we have been very busy putting together our two upcoming events.

Our 'Weather' exhibition at the Beany in Canterbury started with an opening event on the 19th May and will run until the 15th July.

We also attended Wealden Midsummer Fair, Rolvenden from 7th - 9th June. Our staff worked incredibly hard to support artists to make some amazing 'farming life' themed art and craft pieces alongside other unique hand crafted products. We were very excited to showcase what the Art at the Farm artists have achieved.

We were very proud to have artists receiving their certificates for achieving their City and Guilds qualifications on 6th June. Yvette, one of our accredited tutors, has dedicated a lot of her own time to supporting our artists for which we thank her and we are grateful to Charles for being there when we needed him.

We are looking forward to what we hope will be a very sunny summer and getting inspired for our upcoming projects - watch this space!

By Paul Sanderson

An exhibition by Art at The Farm (until Sunday 15 July) entitled 'Weather' is being held at The Beany House in the centre of Canterbury. The colourful exhibition comprises mixed media and ceramic pieces showing how weather affects our lives. The Beany House is well worth a visit, and is easily found at 18 High Street, Canterbury (not open Mondays).



The various exhibitions are free and there is a cafeteria and bookshop.

Jill - The Granary Restaurant

We were all prepared for a busy Easter (especially Good Friday), only to be let down by the weather. But the latter part of the 2 week Easter brightened up and visitors started increasing.

Here Emma's showing off her driving skills—but where did she hide the Easter Bunny?



During these 2 busy weeks our Lifeskills students prepared - under the watchful eyes of Nikki and Lucie - a fantastic spread for 'The Martha Trust', who visited us for the day. As always, we were proud of the hard work they put in.



Our Friday Lifeskills students made 500 scones for the Poulton Wood Cream Tea and did a brilliant job.

Adam had a trial Cream Tea in the Restaurant as someone needed to check the quality and he gave his approval.



We have been blessed again by a Bluetit nesting in our cigarette box outside the kitchen door. Last year 13 eggs were laid. This year we have the addition of a Pied wagtail nesting with now 6 eggs rather than the 5 pictured. We are pleased to say, all 6 eggs have hatched and the chicks are doing well.



We had a small leaving do at the end of May to say farewell to Sarah, who was our Rare Breeds Shop Manager for many years and worked in the front office previous to that. Sarah was always one for dressing up for Rare Breed events.

She also raised money walking the great China Wall and entering The Dirty Dozen. She will be greatly missed by us all.

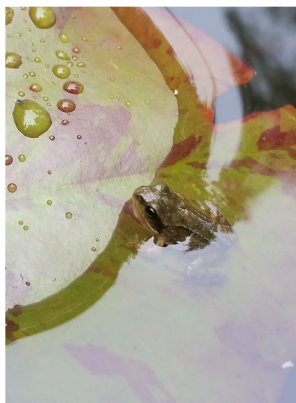
Jax - Poulton Wood

We've had a cracking time here at the wood – it has felt like we have been starring in our own SpringWatch series! Earlier in the year we were lucky enough to be given a generous donation from the Police Lost Property fund, which we used to buy two nest box cameras. We installed them in our yard, kept our fingers crossed and were delighted when both boxes became occupied within a couple of weeks!

From the day the birds started to build the nest we were totally transfixed with their activities. Though one pair selfishly built their nest just out of sight, the other was displayed for us to watch in full voyeuristic glory. Nine eggs were laid, fussed over, turned frequently and eventually hatched (bar one). We instantly fell in love with the primeval looking chicks and followed their development daily (Russell was particularly captivated as he is a huge fan of birds). They fledged just before our Open Day and we marvelled over their transformation from naked gawping things to beautiful replicas of their parents.

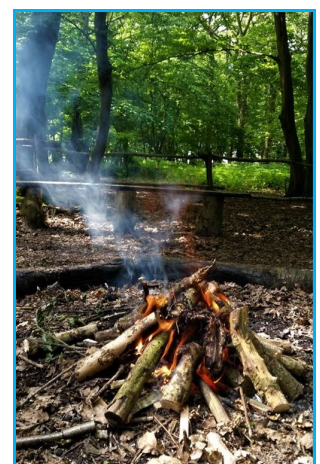
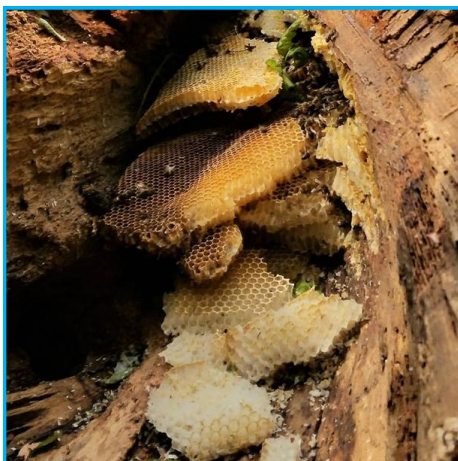


Meanwhile we were also given a mass of tadpoles and have watched them change into little froglets which we have released into our recently renovated garden pond. The pond itself has benefitted from a generous donation of plants and invertebrates, courtesy of our pond wardens, Chris and Sue Gove.



Our Bluebell Cream Tea was a great success; the wood looked glorious carpeted in swathes of scented bluebells and we are indebted to our fabulous volunteers who gave up their valuable time to help out with baking, car parking and serving delicious scones and tea.

Particular thanks go to Nikki and her Granary crew, Elaine and the Woodcraft Folk, the Rangers and various staff members, friends and families – we really couldn't do it without you.



We also have to thank everyone who enabled our Open Day to run so smoothly – the final figures have yet to be calculated but it looks like it will be our most successful ever. Again, the event is only possible with the help of our brilliant volunteers – thank you all, you know who you are!



This year's event was blessed with perfect weather and was so successful that we ran out of hot potatoes and burgers, which was a first. There were all the usual attractions, including archery with Robin Hood and Friar Tuck, home-made cakes, a BBQ fired by our own charcoal, storytelling and marshmallow toasting, pond dipping, field games, musicians, craft stalls, the Moth Man, a working horse, Wishing Tree ribbon trail, pole lathing demonstrations, plants for sale, cider van, the Woodchurch Morris side, face painting and Mystic Marie reading the Tarot cards in the vardo. The feedback from visitors was that a fun and varied day was had by all. We have also decided that next year we will be using only recyclable products and trying as hard as we can to go plastic free at our events.



We also enjoyed the recent Pop Quiz, though that elusive first place just slipped from our fingers yet again; however we were quite happy with joint second place this year. The quiz has become so popular that we may need a second table next year!

So now our two annual events have passed it's back to the usual routine of bramble control and path clearing, City and Guilds studies, maintaining the woodland and garden, working in the polytunnel, producing signs, benches, bird feeders and bug boxes and commissions and working in harmony with the seasonal changes of the woodland and its wildlife.

Don't forget you can buy your lovingly produced, hand crafted, artisan, organic free range charcoal from us – much more environmentally friendly than the imported stuff from your local DIY store and makes your BBQ food taste that much more delicious!



Hayley - Farm

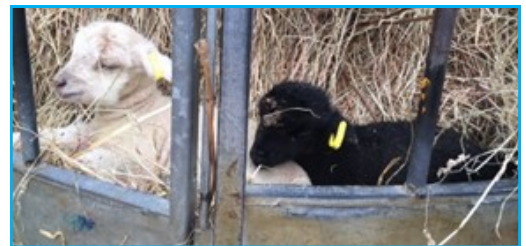
Spring has brought us lots of new arrivals on the farm....

Since the last edition of In Touch there has been lots happening on the farm; it's a job to know where to begin....

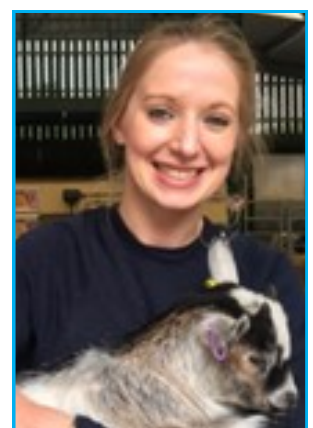
Most recently our Life Skills students participated in the Heathfield Agricultural Show. They had a great time showing their sheep and came home with some rosettes... Thomas B won a 3rd place with a Wensleydale in the "Wool on Hoof" class and Emma won 2nd place with a Coloured Lincoln Longwool; she also won 5th place with a Herdwick. Congratulations to everyone involved in the preparation and showing!



We've had lots of bundles of new arrivals this spring. Lambing was successful with over 130 healthy new born lambs snuggled up in the lambing tunnel over the Easter holidays. Our new kids have been bounding around much to the amusement of the visitors, and we've had 5 English Longhorn calves born, with one still due.



Speaking of new arrivals, new staff members have joined our farm team recently, so we would like to extend a warm welcome to Jadie (Life-skills Tutor), Sam (Discovery Gardener), Jake (Farm Worker) and Milli (Meet the Animals).



It is with great sadness that we are to say goodbye to a familiar face on the farm, John is leaving us at the end of June. John, who you may have seen doing a good impression of road runner and whose specialities includes sheep hairdressing, is off to pastures new and early starts at a local dairy farm.

We wish him well in his new job and I'm sure he will pop in from time to time.



The Phoenix Rises!

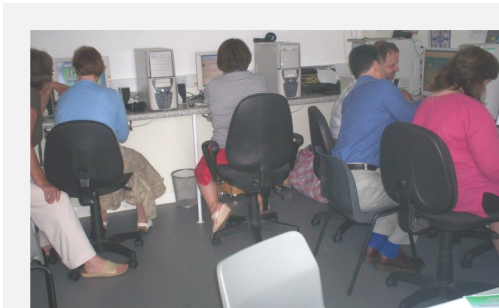
By Joanne Creighton

After a hugely successful campaign—which began back in 2016—it is a great thrill to announce that we have finally reached the fundraising target for a much-needed new college building at Highlands Farm.

The Foley Centre, which will boast 4 flexible classrooms, a dedicated one-to-one study area and a specially designed interactive space, will be the home of our new and improved learning service—the *MY LIFE* Skills Academy.

Purpose-Built Facility

At 144 square meters, the new facility is *three times* the size of our existing college—a small temporary structure with only two tiny teaching areas and a single toilet cubicle.



The opportunity to develop the service in a purpose-built environment, far more suited to the needs of our students their tutors and our dedicated team of college volunteers, is an enormously exciting prospect. But we couldn't have done it without help.

A Leap of Faith

Over a coffee one wintry afternoon, I shared the Trust's hopes for a new learning centre with John Foley, brother of COT tenant Robert. I explained that the Trust had been aware of the need for the project for many years, but it was a daunting prospect, requiring significant investment and with no guarantee of planning permission on the Highlands Farm site.



Pile driving the foundations

Even to get the idea to the planning permission stage would require a significant commitment to professional fees - a real worry with so many other strategic priorities competing for funds. Thankfully for Canterbury Oast Trust, John took a huge leap of faith that day and made the lead donation that began our fundraising journey. When the total project cost increased due to rapidly rising materials prices, John and his wife Dina made a second donation to ensure the building works could begin.

We are delighted to name our new building '**The Foley Centre**' in recognition of that incredible faith and commitment—evident from start to finish.



John and Robert Foley



An Army of Support

With the lead donation in place and planning permission secured, we were able to reach out to a wide range of grant-giving trusts, foundations and community organisations for help with the build cost. As we hoped, the concept of the Skills Academy certainly proved inspiring and we were soon bowled over by the enormous generosity of the people we approached. We are indebted to the following organisations and individuals who have helped to make our vision a reality:

The Wolfson Foundation; Hitrade (The Charity Shop, Sidcup); Civil Service Insurance Society Charity Fund; Masonic Charitable Foundation; Will Charitable Trust; Cantiacorum Foundation; Garfield Weston Foundation; Mr and Mrs Shears; Mr and Mrs Dunkley (in memory of their son, Robert); Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation; Nineveh Charitable Trust; ACT Foundation; Baily Thomas Charitable Fund; Pamela Pointer (deceased); Beatrice Laing Trust; Other generous individual donors and groups.

Campaign Highlights

Every single gift to the project is enormously significant, of course, but there have been some particular highlights during the fundraising campaign.

The public vote for The Masonic Charitable Foundation gift (as part of Freemasonry's 300th Anniversary celebrations) was really exciting and we were grateful to receive the highest number of votes in the South East. Every COT friend and supporter who took the time to vote can be proud of the part they played in our success.

Securing the highest donation ever awarded by the Cantiacorum Foundation (for charities in Kent and Medway) was also humbling, especially in light of the many very worthy causes they support across the county.

Having played such a vital role in the 33-year history of COT, it was wonderful to receive a significant donation to the Academy from the dedicated volunteers at Hitrade. What better way for them to embark upon their second million-pound target?

The Civil Service Insurance Society Charity Fund made a grant to the project in the early stages of the campaign and invited COT to make a second request, if necessary, to help complete the project. They proved good to their word, and receiving a second cheque almost one year after the first was certainly a memorable event.

Every Pound Counts

As we know, however, a fundraising campaign is very much a group effort and so we are indebted to each and every donor for every pound they have gifted towards this incredibly important project. On behalf of the many service users who will benefit - now and into the future - we thank you; one and all.

There's Still Time to Get Involved!

With the building campaign complete, we are now turning our minds to the fit-out costs. To that end we are grateful to the Rotary Club of Sandwich and to Ken and Debbie Chappell (who are travelling far and wide with their Problematic Pop Quizzes) for the money they are raising towards equipment and specialist furniture.

We still have a remaining target of £25,000 to meet before the building opens in the autumn. If you would like to add your name to the many generous supporters of the *MY LIFE* Skills Academy (and genuinely help to change the lives of the people we care for), please do get in touch. We would love to welcome you on board. Please contact:

Lucy Read, Fundraising Manager

Email: LR@c-o-t.org.uk or phone 01233 861493 ext. 241



Property & Infrastructure

...maintaining and sustaining our homes and our projects

Jerry—Head of Property and Infrastructure

It's all going on in Estates....

Beaver Lodge – Despite starting in January and having to work through all the cold and rain, the new extension has been completed and is now in use. The final part of the build, to convert the former lounge into a self-contained flat, has begun and we are looking to have this ready by 1st of June. When work is completed, Beaver will be able to become home for two more people.



Thanks to Hi Trade the mess hut extension is up, in use and giving everyone breathing space – but the work is not yet completed. Hi Trade has funded work to replace the old kitchen and fit a new larger one. The old storage heaters system, which at best has struggled, is due an update to proper central heating. It will take heat from the new college next door. If users remember to shut the door, it may even be warm in winter as Estates have also got plans to insulate the roof.

We are also replacing the balcony at Watchbell; the old one has been in place for centuries and was in need of repairs. It needed to be held up with scaffolding, while the Council's conservation department and building control fought it out; one wanted it put back exactly as it had always been and the other wanted it to meet modern standards in all respects.

When that was eventually sorted we then needed to get hold of craftsmen who have the skills to work on old buildings. There are not many who can work to the standard required and a 6 month wait was needed to get who we wanted. It was worth the wait and Watchbell is now restored to its former glory.



The new top toilets opened at last, in time for the wettest Easter for a long time. The whole RBC site was waterlogged to the point where one play area had to be closed. Another play area, near the new toilets, had turned to mud, and I mean mud; it looked like Adam had taken his annual bath (he is very fussy really and he has been shown the draft – he went off muttering something about investing in people but I missed the detail!)



Anyway, the residue (from the playground, not Adam) seemed to work its way into every newly painted nook and cranny. Poor Helen fought a courageous but losing battle with a mop and a post-Easter rescue attempt is being made, 1.) to locate Helen and 2.) to make the building easier to clean. That said, what a great improvement the new toilets are!

We go into the summer with lots to do. One of the jobs is the Mariners' roof. It has had a small leak for most of the winter and several attempts to seal it have not worked. We are taking the roof back and I'm sure we will find something we were not expecting. It is a lovely house and a great place to live but never ceases to throw up building challenges. I will let you know in time for the next In Touch.

In addition to all this the new general data protection regulations are coming into effect. If the Mariners is a building challenge then believe me, these new regulations are worse. We are working to ensure that the information we keep is fully compliant with this new set of rules. It is good as it protects us all but is proving very demanding. You will be receiving correspondence asking for your agreement to keep your name on a database, so In Touch and other publications and notices can come to you. When you get the request please respond if you agree. If we do not get your agreement we have to take you off the mailing or email list and will not be able to send you In Touch amongst other things.

This is where I really must retract any rude comments about Adam – he has been a Godsend in many areas of the business, but in particular with researching the technology that will allow COT to comply.

Russell Walters - Chairman of the Board

The Board of Trustees is preparing for the departure of some familiar faces later this year. Each COT Trustee may serve a maximum of three terms of three years (although, to ensure continuity of knowledge, it was agreed that Trustees who were serving at the date of the 2013 AGM - when this limit was introduced - would be eligible to serve for one further term of three years if they had already served for over nine years). For that reason, Elizabeth Emson (former Chair) and Peter Ergis (Company Secretary) will be stepping down from their Trustee roles at the AGM in October. Although we will express our formal thanks for their efforts nearer the time, we are already thinking about how to fill the significant holes they will leave.

We have also identified some other key areas that we would like to address and are therefore currently seeking new Trustees who may be suitable for the Company Secretary role, or those with skills and experience in Finance, Tourism and Care. In particular for Care specialists, a knowledge of local authority commissioning would be especially valuable.

As you may have gathered from this edition of In Touch, the role of a Trustee at Canterbury Oast Trust is a busy but enormously rewarding one. If you feel that you could make a positive contribution to our work and have the time and energy to commit to the role, we would be very glad to hear from you. **Please contact Jane Kirkham, Executive Assistant to the Chairman & CEO on 01233 861493 (extn 253) or email jek@c-o-t.org.uk in the first instance.**

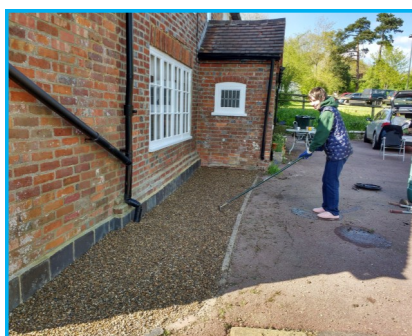
Volunteering & Training

...updates & news around volunteers and staff

Paul Harris—Volunteer Coordinator

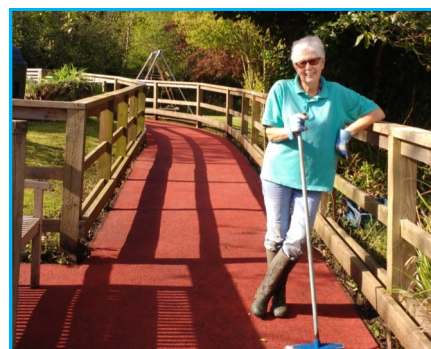
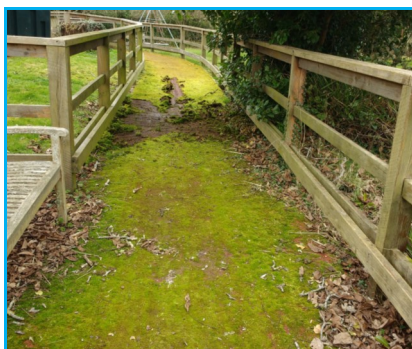
The volunteer gardening group have been busy over the past 6 weeks and have taken up the challenge after we received the funding kindly awarded to us by Tesco earlier this year. With that work has started at the New Bungalow and Homelands to bring back to life the borders and footpaths around the homes.

The pictures include some of the gardening group volunteers and Sammy at work tidying up the borders at Homelands, making ready for the new planters to arrive and putting the old footpath back into use at the Bungalow.



Also a note for your diary:

The Volunteers' Lunch this year will be held on Sunday the 2nd September at Highlands Farm in the Falcons Centre. Invites will go out nearer the time.



Danielle Boakes—Training and Development Coordinator

Learning and Development would like to say **welcome** to all of the new staff across COT who have joined and undertaken their Induction programme. We look forward to working with you all in the future.

We would also like to say a very big **well done** to our new care staff who have undertaken and completed the care certificate so far in 2018. They all worked very hard to complete the certificate alongside their service induction;

Kemi Shoyombo	Bungalow
Christina Ham	CSS
Mark Hodgson	Flexi
Lisa Wynne	Flexi
Bethan Hopkins	Flexi

Stephanie Lyon	Rosemary
Michelle Ross	Holly Cottage
Graceley Varella	Rosemary
Lauren Appleton	Rosemary
Julie Reynolds	Flexi

This is the start of their journey at COT and lays the foundations for the knowledge and skills they need to carry out their roles.

Our Supporters

...fundraisers, funders and volunteers

Lucy & Hannah - Fundraising

As we step into a long awaited summer, we reflect back on a busy few months in fundraising, from golf days to pop quizzes and half-marathons in between...!

'Rosemary Rockers' steal the show at our annual Problematic Pop Quiz!

As ever, the Problematic Pop Quiz started with a bang on the evening of Thursday 17th May as everyone piled into the Falcons Centre waiting expectantly for the questions and music to start! After some frantic raffle ticket selling and finding the right tables, Ken Chappell with help from Debbie, Chris and Jim Graham, kicked off the quiz and the room fell silent in anticipation.

From Madonna to Michael Jackson, the questions covered all different genres of music appealing to everyone in the room, but it was the final round 'guess the next line of the song', which got the teams on their feet and singing out loud. After some number crunching and double checking of the scores, Ken revealed the winners – Rosemary Rockers! The Nurseplus shield was presented to the winning team, but not before the drawing of the raffle with help from Jerry Kenward.

With a selection of fantastic prizes, including a haircut and a selection of fine wine, no one went home empty handed! We would like to express our sincere thanks to Ken, Debbie and Chris Chappell and Jim Graham (who have been carrying out these pop quizzes for over 20 years) for another entertaining and fun-filled evening.



The running total of funds raised through pop quizzes over the years has amounted to almost £230,000 for Canterbury Oast Trust, which is truly amazing and has made a huge difference to our projects.

Also, special thanks are extended to the Nurseplus team for sponsoring the event for the 11th year in a row with another incredible £500 donation. We are so fortunate to have the continued support of Nurseplus and enjoy having the 'Ninjas' with us each year!

Thank you to everyone involved on the night, whether you were setting up tables, selling raffle tickets or helping to Hoover when everyone had left! Your help is much appreciated in making these events run smoothly. But the question is, will Rosemary Rockers hold onto the shield for another year...?!

Introducing our new 'Fundraising Officer'

As some of you may have noticed, we have a new face in the fundraising office! Hannah Baker started on Tuesday 22nd May and will be supporting Lucy Read in fundraising, helping with donations, events, volunteers and many other things beside.

If you have any questions about how to get involved with community fundraising this year or simply would like to say hello, please email Hannah on: hb@c-o-t.org.uk or call 01233 861493 (ext. 272)

Janet Holloway delivers inspiring COT talks for The Townswomen Guild – read her story here:

"Over the past 12 years while on holiday, John and I have met residents, parents and staff and it is always lovely seeing everyone and hearing all the exciting plans and news for COT. When we arrived in the Isle of White I joined the Townswomen Guild and over the years have heard people giving talks about their employment and hobbies. However last year the person booked to give our talk could not attend, so a number of members agreed to fill in, which is when I gave a 30 minute talk about my time working at COT.

Many people were very interested as they had family, friends or knew someone with a learning disability or living in residential care. This then snowballed and in February 2018 I was asked to give another talk at The Townswomen Federation Conference in Sandown, Isle of White to around 100 attendees.

After an S.O.S to fundraising where Emily was fantastic in providing me with leaflets and additional information to help assist me, my speech and the conference was a success.

I received a cheque for £50 for giving the talk and made a further £77.52 through sales of snowflakes made at Art at The Farm. Now surprisingly I have been asked to deliver a further 3 talks for Townswomen Guild around the Island. I would like to say a huge thank you to COT, their residents and staff and I will continue to promote and support the trust and keep in touch with you all. Don't forget John and I love seeing friends old and new, so if you are ever over on holiday give us a ring and we could meet for tea and cake. Love to you all, Janet Holloway"



Marie Appleton pounds the pavement for COT

One particular fundraiser we would like to spotlight this month is the wonderful Marie Appleton who took part in the London Landmarks Half Marathon on 25th March 2018. The event sees 10,000 runners start on Pall Mall before heading through the City of Westminster and onto The City's iconic buildings, before finishing next to Downing Street.

Even more spectacularly, Marie took part in the Hastings Half Marathon a week before on the 'run up' to the big day! Marie raised over £150 for COT and said the event was 'fantastic'. We are so pleased to have Marie flying the COT flag on the day and pleased to know she managed to enjoy the event too.



Sunshine in Sandwich as golfers take part in Charity Golf Day!

We would like to say a HUGE thank you to everyone at the Rotary Club of Sandwich for so kindly hosting another fantastic Charity Golf Day in aid of Canterbury Oast Trust. We were selected as one of their 'Charities of The Year' and since that time the Rotarians have been instrumental in raising funds and awareness for us all year round, finishing with an 18-hole charity golf day in sunny Sandwich on Friday 18th May. The club have raised over £5,000 for us to date and this most recent event will create another substantial amount



Special thanks to Derek Smith and Tony Alexander for organising the day and hosting an electric auction to close the event! We are so thankful to have the committed and continued support of the Rotary Club of Sandwich, who have helped us provide brighter lives for adults with a learning disability.

Cantiacorum visit

On Wednesday 16th May, we were delighted to welcome along Trustees from the Cantiacorum Foundation, Chris and Nicola Hurton, who have so kindly donated £20,000 towards the Life Skills Academy build.

Having also supported Harrington College in the past, this recent donation was the largest they have ever given to any one charity, so we feel even more fortunate and thankful for their wonderful support. By visiting our various Life Skills projects, including Plants & Produce and Art at The Farm, they were able to meet with students, residents and tutors to better understand the scope of our work. We are very excited at the prospect of the new Academy in terms of the range of programmes we can offer students and shared this passion and objective with the Trustees.

We look forward to welcoming Chris and Nicola along to the opening of the Life Skills Academy in September 2018.

Good luck to our Ride London cyclists

Last, but by no means least, we would like to wish our 3 Ride London cyclists GOOD LUCK as they take on 100 miles of thrills and exhilaration on Sunday 29th July in aid of COT. Our riders this year are father and son, Jamie and Joshua Clark, with their close friend William Murtagh.

As keen cyclists, we are sure they will enjoy the day, but there are two infamous hill climbs on the day, which are a challenge even for the professionals! Thank you for taking part this year and wearing the COT vests with pride – best of luck.



We hope you have enjoyed reading more about our wonderful volunteers and fundraisers and if you feel inspired to take on a challenge, hold a coffee morning or host a summer get together all in aid of Canterbury Oast Trust, please do not hesitate to get us on: fundraising@c-o-t.org.uk or call 01233 861493 (ext. 241)

Our Supporters

...fundraisers, funders and volunteers

Margaret Hanlon—Friends of COT

By the time you read this the **Carvery Lunch** booked for Sunday 1st July may well be over, or at least the deadline for bookings will be past. We needed 60 guests in order to hold this as a private function and so, remembering that we welcomed 53 people to our last lunch party, we gently crossed our fingers and booked the room. As I write, we have 77 bookings so this should be a truly happy occasion with lots of laughter and a decent amount of money raised for us to spend on COT's residents and tenants. This time Friends decided to subsidise the cost of the meal, meaning that our guests get a 3 course meal with coffee for just £16.95 and, if all goes to plan, we should raise £1,155 plus the proceeds of the raffle. In case you wonder how this works, the London Beach Hotel, where we enjoy our lunches, has a charitable Trust and when you make a group booking they donate the cost of your meal to your chosen charity. We've held 3 lunches so far and we're considering the option of an Afternoon Tea in the future; I'd love to hear if you'd be interested in that.

In May we organised a **Fashion Show** in Hamstreet, run by Travelling Trends. They bring rails and rails of current season clothes, many from well-known High Street names such as M&S, Country Casuals, Next etc, which are on sale at heavily discounted prices. They also bring two of their own models but we had to supply another 2 or 3 for the show. No problem, plenty of offers! Alas, by the day of the show two models had to drop out, both for excellent and forgivable reasons, which left Sandra Bieri and myself plus a lovely young friend of Anne Squires to brave the catwalk (not to mention the stripping off to change outfits). The audience was disappointingly small but we raised around £260 for COT and bought some lovely clothes at bargain prices, too.



The **Zumba** classes have re-started after a forced holiday, firstly when the room was being altered and then when the leader fell ill. I'm sure everyone will be very happy to return to moving and shaking to music. Another visit from **SG Productions** took place on 8th June, when everyone was invited to 'Twist and Shout'. If past evenings are anything to go by there was plenty of both! The **Summer Sports Day** takes place on Sunday 5th August, details will be soon be sent to all the houses, and the next **It's a Knockout**, organised with Ashford Lions, is on October 14th - *to be confirmed*.

The next **Tombola** will take place at the Classic Car Rally on 17th June – we had to cancel the Easter Monday tombola when the weather forecast was pretty dire. In fact it wasn't as bad as expected but decisions have to be made in advance nonetheless.



We've been donated £200 by Tenterden Lions towards a **Music Day** and we're busy putting together some ideas for a day in the autumn with plenty of participation as well as lots of musical fun. A big thank you to The Lions for helping our residents/tenants in this way.

Silcocks Farm Shop, St Michaels near Tenterden, have come up trumps yet again with a donation of £122.34, mostly raised from offering books for a donation but also from a competition at their Spring Farm Day. Not only do I offer them our gratitude for their continuing support but I also have no hesitation in recommending them as a source of meat, cheese, tarts and puddings. Top quality, organic, rare breed and delicious.

Apart from the activities organised by Friends, we've been able to support many social times for residents and tenants, from holidays to days out. Once again, we need to emphasise how hard it is to continue to raise money for Friends when there are so few active members – that's not to say how much we appreciate all your support given through tombola prizes and attending our events, because we certainly do. A few more offers of help at those events would be wonderful, too, not to mention some new ideas, and regular donations are always gratefully accepted.



Future dates for your diaries : **Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th November Christmas Gift Market**. We need items to sell for this, please, whether crafts, decorations or otherwise AND we'll need lots of prizes for the big tombola, which always raises such a lot for Friends. **Saturday 8th December, Christmas Concert given by the Kent Police Male Voice Choir**. This year the concert will be held in St Dunstan's, Cranbrook, a large and beautiful church. *I really need to hear from anyone who knows the town or the church as I'll be starting my publicity campaign from a position of unfamiliarity – and we need sell 200 tickets at least. If you can give me any advice or have any useful contacts, please let me know !*

COT Events Calendar



Keep this calendar handy to stay up-to-date with everything that's going on at COT!

For up-to-the-minute updates see our website calendar at www.c-o-t.org.uk/calendar

For more detailed info on Rare Breeds Centre events go to www.rarebreeds.org.uk

Upcoming Events

July

29th July; Ride London



September

2nd September; Volunteers' Lunch, Falcons Centre, Highlands Farm



October

20th-28th October; Halloween Fear and Fun at the Rare Breeds Centre



Supporting adults with learning disability

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