



THE UCKFIELD VOICE

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thevoice

A PASSION FOR HOSPITALITY

MEET LOUISE SLAUGHTER OUR NEW HOSPITALITY MANAGER

From a young age, Louise loved the idea of working in the hospitality industry. She obtained two Hotel & Catering Diplomas from Westminster Catering College and then embarked on a two-year Catering Training Programme, which took her to The New Forest, Dorset, Richmond, Sidmouth and Torquay.

Upon successful completion she became Duty Manager at The Crown Hotel in Lyndhurst. After 18 months Louise returned home and secured a Restaurant Supervisor position at the Langham Hilton in London later becoming the Palm Court Restaurant Manager where she stayed for three years.

Louise then moved to The Selsdon Park Hotel where in August 1998 she became a Conference and Banqueting Co-ordinator, organising weddings, private and corporate events.

In 2001 Louise welcomed her daughter to the world and decided to take a break from her career. She then had to change her work life balance and worked for the Post Office. Some of you may recognise Louise from the old Uckfield Post Office. Unfortunately, Louise was made redundant from the Post Office in 2018, and she decided that now was the time to go back to her passion - the hospitality industry. In October 2018 Louise became the General Manager of The Highlands



Inn, only to be made redundant once again in 2020 due to the Covid Pandemic. In August 2020, Louise joined the Civic Centre and since her arrival has done a fantastic job, working hard with her team to ensure that Luxfords Restaurant is a Covid-safe environment and compliant with the UK Government guidelines.

Louise and the team are currently planning a takeaway menu so, if you can't get out, they can deliver something to you! Plans are also afoot to bring an exciting and interesting entertainment programme for 2021. Join our monthly newsletter mailing list to keep up to date - <https://www.civiccentreuckfield.com/whats-on/>

Contact us through:

admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk



@uckfieldtowncouncil

WHAT'S INSIDE

- New ranger
- Community Grant Application

A NEW RANGER FOR OUR OPEN SPACES



Hello, my name is Neal Matheson and I have recently taken on the role of Countryside Ranger for Uckfield Town Council.

Land and Wildlife Management

I have been 'on the land' for most of my working life in various capacities including farming, horticulture, forestry and coaching outdoor sports. In recent years, I also moved into conservation work and successfully gained top marks in Land and Wildlife Management as a mature student at Plumpton College.

Local Nature Reserves

I am responsible for the nature reserves at West Park and Hempstead Meadows, the wildlife pond in the Harland's development and the ancient woodlands that the council own. I also take an active role looking after the town's urban trees.

Looking ahead

Challenges for the future include maintaining the high standards of the town's open spaces, mitigating the effects of several serious tree diseases, controlling invasive species and enhancing the biodiversity of many of the spaces the town is lucky enough to own. I am also looking to co-ordinate with other agencies to create natural flood mitigation projects, conservation grazing and perform a more active programme of woodland management.

Living in Uckfield

I have lived in Uckfield for over 15 years and am raising my children as proud 'Uckfielders'. Uckfield is a lovely place to live with a strong rural flavour, so many people want to live here.

One of the bigger challenges facing



A NEW RANGER FOR OUR OPEN SPACES

land managers in the South East is maintaining the rich biodiversity of the region in the face of large developments. This calls for some ingenuity and a creative approach.

The importance of open spaces

Coronavirus has taught us all of the value of the open spaces we have so close to hand, and also the need for their management.

Volunteer programme

If you would like to get involved in our volunteer programme, get out in the fresh air and help to create a cleaner, brighter Uckfield drop me a line at ranger@uckfieldtc.gov.uk.

I look forward to continuing to meet and talk to you all out in the woods!



COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAMME

OPEN NOW FOR APPLICATIONS

Uckfield Town Council is inviting community groups and organisations to apply for a community grant for 2021-2022

Applications can be submitted until 31 January 2021

Visit

www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/community/town-council-grants-2021-2022/

to download an application pack

All applications will be reviewed by the Finance Sub Committee on 15 February 2021

LAST MONTH IN YOUR COUNCIL

Final report from the External Auditor for 2019/20

The External Auditor recently announced their findings for Uckfield Town Council's accounts ending 31 March 2020. No issues were identified and Uckfield Town Council was given a good bill of health - with sound finances and good governance.

Setting our priorities and budget for April 2021 to March 2022

The December meeting of Full Council saw members review the first draft of the priorities and budget papers for 2021/22. You can take a look at these documents on the Town Council's website <https://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/community/have-your-say/>.

We would welcome your thoughts on the draft documents and proposed

initiatives for the next financial year by 10am on Friday 8 January 2021, before the budget is finalised at Full Council on 18 January 2021 and, the precept agreed.

2021 Census

Believe it or not, 10 years has passed since the last census was undertaken in the UK. The census is a survey that happens every 10 years and gives a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. Local councils, charities and many other organisations use census information to decide how to spend funds on services every year. To make sure this money is spent where it's most needed, it's important that the census counts everyone. It will be taking place in Sunday 21 March 2021 – more information coming soon!

Get prepared for Census 2021

Census Day will be Sunday 21 March 2021



UPCOMING MEETINGS*

Agendas and minutes can be seen at Uckfield Library and on the town council website. If you wish to ask a question at a meeting, on items on the agenda,

it is advisable to submit your question beforehand to allow a full response to be given at the meeting. All questions should be directed to the

MON 11 JAN	– PLANS
MON 18 JAN	– FULL COUNCIL (BUDGET)
MON 25 JAN	– GENERAL PURPOSES
MON 1 FEB	– PLANS
MON 8 FEB	– ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE
MON 15 FEB	– FINANCE SUB (GRANTS)
MON 22 FEB	– PLANS

Town Clerk at: admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk
* meeting dates may change or be held remotely see website for latest details

COMING NEXT MONTH

- 2021 Census
- Climate change initiatives

