



THE UCKFIELD VOICE

November 2021

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thevoice

UCKFIELD REVIVAL 2021

BY CLLR CHRIS MACVE

Saturday 2 October was all set for a large gathering of classic, vintage and interesting cars at the Highlands Pub prior to their parade to New Town, Bell Lane, Uckfield Bypass, London Road and the High Street.

The cars then assembled on Luxford Field to the accompaniment of suitable music and regalia. The display of over 80 vehicles provided a magnificent show of past and present engineering achievements and the opportunity for their proud owners to show them off and exhibit them.

Weather took a turn for the worse

Sadly soon after their arrival, the weather deteriorated from being overcast and



©Photo Jon Cornish

gloomy to persistent heavy rain. This change did not deter members of the public from spending time appreciating the contribution of the owners and the results of all the hard work of the organisers. The hardy intrepid owners stayed on to allow the suitably clad attendees to chat and appreciate each others vehicles and reminisce on ownerships past and present.

Thank you

Our thanks to all who attended both to the display and the supporting stalls and facilities.

Contact us through:

admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk



[@uckfieldtowncouncil](https://www.facebook.com/uckfieldtowncouncil)



WHAT'S INSIDE

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FOCUS ON TOWN COUNCIL STAFF

Sarah D'Alessio Assistant Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Sarah D'Alessio joined Uckfield Town Council in 2019 following a career in various financial roles from Payroll Officer to Finance Manager.

An interest in figures

She originally studied Hotel Management at East Surrey College where her interest in figures started. This led her to study for her Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) qualification.

Moving to Uckfield

Originally from Coulsdon, Sarah moved south after meeting her partner Tony and then along came her son, Louis. Moving to Uckfield meant she could work closer to home and achieve a better work life balance. Sarah explains: "Obviously we are pleased that Uckfield has become our home town for the last 21 years!

Uckfield has such a strong and vibrant community and it has been lovely to be part of it".

Keeping active and supporting charities

Sarah is a keen trekker, taking part in a number of challenges for local charities. Most recently she completed the Thames Bridges Trek in aid of St Wilfrid's Hospice. She is currently walking the South Downs Way, not in one go!

Sarah's claim to fame

A long time ago when there were a lot of football hooligans about, Sarah wrote to Bobby Robson to ask if she could have tickets for the England match but in a safe place in the stadium. As a result she got to meet Gary Lineker and the England Football team at Wembley Stadium. This led her to support SAFE (Soccer as Family Entertainment) which promoted family enclosures at football grounds.

Allotment Conference

**Wednesday 10 November 2021
7pm**

**Weald Hall, Civic Centre
Tea and coffee from 6.45pm**

**Please send any questions or concerns in advance
so we can make sure we have a response for you
on the night
email: rachel@uckfieldtc.gov.uk**

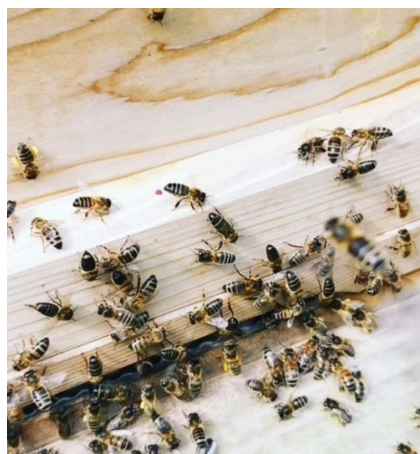
COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAMME

The Town Council will always try to support local voluntary groups and charities as a means of enhancing the great community spirit within the town. This is even more important in these times of Covid-19 when local organisations need more financial support than usual.

The annual Community Grant programme, where an allocation of funds is awarded to local bidders to support specific projects, **opens on Monday 1 November and closes on Sunday 16 January 2022**. Further details are available on our website. In view of COVID-19 we are expecting a large number of applications.

Grants awarded for fiscal year 2021/22

There were 23 applications received through the Town Council's Community Grant Programme for the financial year 2021-22. On 8 March 2021, the General Purposes Committee reviewed the recommendations put forward by the Finance Sub-Committee. A decision was taken by the The General Purposes Committee to approve the allocation



Uckfield Allotments Bee Club received £647.55 to provide members with learning opportunities through a range of beekeeping activities.



Uckfield Community Orchestra received £150 towards providing opportunities to play for the less advanced orchestral players at an affordable cost

of £27,500 of grant funding to local community groups and organisations, as well as £18,900 to Wealden Citizen's Advice and £8,000 to the Uckfield Volunteer Centre.

Funding available

The total amount of money is agreed by Councillors when setting the Town Council's budget.

Local groups are invited to apply for a grant providing full details on how the money would be used together with supporting information on the group itself.

Opportunity to present their case

Requests for grants are always greater than the money available so a meeting of the Finance Committee is held where bidders are invited to explain their application and answer any questions from Councillors.

This committee then makes recommendations on how to award the funds.

LAST MONTH IN YOUR COUNCIL

Understanding needs for sport, leisure and community facilities

Uckfield is facing potential growth in the next ten years, with planning applications coming forward for development on the periphery of the town, it was imperative that the town's residents, businesses and visitors consider what is most important to them, and what is needed to support this level of growth.

Channeling your views

Although Uckfield Town Council has no jurisdiction for planning matters as Wealden DC is the local planning authority, we are still a key means of communication through which residents' views can be raised and key issues can be lobbied. The Infrastructure Working Group set up by the Town Council will be carrying out a consultation exercise with residents during November to understand in particular the sport, leisure and community facilities needed to support a growing population. Uckfield is very fortunate to have a variety of beautiful open spaces on our doorstep. We also recognise that we lack modern, and varied facilities for a range of age groups, abilities and interests.

Watch this space, for your opportunity to have your say on what's needed for Uckfield's future!

Retaining rates for room hire

Committee members were in unanimous agreement at the October meeting of General Purposes Committee that fees and charges for room hire in Town Council owned buildings i.e. the Civic Centre, Foresters Hall and Victoria Pavilion, should be retained at current levels in 2022/23. Staff and elected members were pleased to see customers returning since the easing of the Covid national lockdown, and although life might not be quite back to normal, everyone agreed that the buildings were much brighter filled with people. The Town Council were very aware that most organisations, community groups and individuals had been financially impacted by the pandemic in some way, and it was important to demonstrate that we were conscious of this. Rates for room hire in the above three buildings would therefore remain the same for a further year from 1 April 2022, and the Town Council wished to welcome everyone back, as and when they were ready.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Agendas and minutes can be seen at Uckfield Library and on the town council website. Meetings will now be

held in person either in the Weald Hall or Council Chamber at the Civic Centre. All meetings start at 7pm.

MON 1 NOV	– PLANS
MON 8 NOV	– GENERAL PURPOSES
WED 10 NOV	– ALLOTMENT CONFERENCE
MON 15 NOV	– ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE
MON 22 NOV	– PLANS
MON 6 DEC	– FULL COUNCIL (DRAFT BUDGET)
MON 13 DEC	– PLANS

All questions should be directed to the Town Clerk at:
admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

COMING NEXT MONTH

- Christmas Message from the Mayor

