



# THE UCKFIELD VOICE

June 2022

EDITION 232

## FIRST ECO EXPO IS A HUGE SUCCESS

BY CLLR KAREN BEDWELL

On 30 April Uckfield Town Council welcomed 30 stalls to the Weald Hall in the Civic Centre for their first ECO EXPO.

The Town Crier announced the ECO Expo and the Mayor, Councillor Jackie Love officially opened the event at 10am. The organisers were very pleased to see a steady flow of visitors throughout the day.

### Diverse range

There was a diverse range of products and information on display.

One visitor commented that he was "delighted to see so many local businesses promoting Eco Friendly products" and "very interested in how the Town Council was reducing its own carbon footprint".

A company from Hailsham selling heat source pumps and solar panels said how pleased they were to come to Uckfield and they had had a successful day.



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### Something for the children

Children enjoyed making 'NO MOW MAY' signs for their grass verges and many went away with sunflower seeds to plant.

### ECO stallholders galore

The variety of stallholders included Riverford Organic Farmers, Annan The Froebel School, and Uckfield's Electric Bike Shop. The Uckfield Green Partnership were also on hand giving out 'tip leaflets'. All businesses were enthusiastic to share their green and energy saving products and advice.

### The future is Green

The Town Council are planning on making this an annual event with even more businesses attending next year.

If you'd like to be involved please email [admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk)

A huge thank you to everyone involved in making the day a success.

Contact us through:

[admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk)



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



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## WHAT'S INSIDE

- Civic Centre and Luxfords Restaurant
- Geoff Pollard's memorial bench unveiled

## THE CIVIC CENTRE AT THE HEART OF TOWN

The Civic Centre is conveniently situated in the heart of the town and is home to Uckfield Town Council, Luxfords Restaurant, seven function rooms of various sizes which are available to hire and the Weald Hall - a large exhibition or event space.

### A varied range of events

There are various events held in the Civic Centre throughout the year. Some shows and events are put on by the town council. This year we have The ELO Encounter, The Take That Experience, We Three Kings, Martin Hopgood returning for an evening of mediumship and the pantomime. Larger events include the Ashdown Radio & Civic Centre Business Expo coming up on 7 July. We also use the spaces within the Civic Centre for public consultations, memorials and the annual Allotment Conference. The Weald Hall is a popular local venue



for hirers to put on their own shows or events. The Model Railway Exhibition and Blues and Roots Festival are two such examples of events put on by external hirers.

### The perfect venue to hire in the town

The Civic Centre is a great venue for room hire with free parking in the adjacent Luxford car park. There is free wi-fi, on-site catering and full disabled access throughout the building. Check out all our facilities and rooms for hire at <https://www.civiccentreakfield.com/room-hire/>



## LUXFORDS RESTAURANT

Luxfords Restaurant in the Civic Centre is a friendly licenced restaurant serving freshly-made food in relaxed and spacious surroundings.

The restaurant is open 9.30am –3.00pm, Monday to Saturday and serves a variety of coffee, homemade cakes, hot and cold daily specials, lunches including light bites, sandwiches and much more. There is a separate popular breakfast menu with many items available all day. Situated just inside the Civic Centre, the restaurant has wheelchair and pram/buggy access and free Wi-Fi. The restaurant can also be hired for celebration of life events, evening functions, dinners, drinks and canapes.

### Takeaway coffee available

If you are still searching for your new local takeaway coffee, why not try our organic blend from Kinini Mountain Coffee? This roastery works in partnership with 622 farmers in Rwanda. We also offer alternative milks and a variety of syrups.

In addition the restaurant offers a takeaway menu, including kids' picnic boxes and afternoon teas. Check out our website [www.civiccentreuckfield.com/restaurant/](http://www.civiccentreuckfield.com/restaurant/)



### Special events in the restaurant

We organise several special events in Luxfords Restaurant each year including sparkling afternoon teas and themed dinners.

On Saturday 4 June we have a special Derby Day afternoon tea to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and in September a murder mystery dinner performed by The Company Upfront. Full details of all the events are available at [www.civiccentreuckfield.com/whats-on/](http://www.civiccentreuckfield.com/whats-on/)

## NEW TELEPHONE BOX LIBRARY NOW OPEN AT HARLANDS

Uckfield Mayor Cllr Jackie Love and Deputy Mayor Cllr Donna French were delighted to visit the new community library at Harlands Primary School and were welcomed by Head Teacher Richard Blakeley. This project was led by the school, with support from CJ Thorne & Co and Uckfield Town Council, and will be maintained by pupils and teaching staff at Harlands Primary School.



# MEMORIAL BENCH FOR GEOFF POLLARD

On Friday 13 May, people gathered in West Park Nature Reserve to remember Uckfield Town Council's Ranger Geoff Pollard and to unveil a memorial bench erected in his honour. The Mayor Councillor Jackie Love welcomed everyone to the gathering and the following is her tribute.

*"Geoff touched all of our hearts in different ways, his kind, caring and respectful personality ensured everyone that met him became a friend.*

*Geoff had been a Ranger for the Town Council for five and a half years and had worked hard alongside our office and grounds teams and an amazing group of*

*volunteers. The work of Geoff and his volunteers ensured our nature reserves and ancient woodlands continued to be beautiful places for Uckfield and local residents to enjoy alongside the preservation of biodiversity and wildlife. His passion for all things outside and working alongside Mother Nature was incredible. His knowledge was unlimited, no matter what you asked with regards to conservation he answered with love, detail and care. He came to us with 25 years experience in conservation management and shared it with us so we could ensure our woods and nature parks are still here and thriving for future generations. Geoff was a quiet man, but had a great and dry sense of humour. When something tickled him he would burst into laughter. He would have been amazed at the support that's been given to buy and install this memorial bench for him. I hope he's pleased with its chosen place within West Park Nature Reserve and I hope when we sit, and look around us at this beautiful place listening to the wildlife he will be sitting with us thinking the exact same thoughts. Bless you Geoff and thank you for everything you did for Uckfield."*



## 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 6 JUNE	– GENERAL PURPOSES
MON 20 JUNE	– PLANS
WED 22 JUNE	– FULL COUNCIL (YEAR END)
MON 27 JUNE	– ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE
MON 11 JULY	– PLANS
MON 18 JULY	– GENERAL PURPOSES
MON 25 JULY	– FULL COUNCIL

All questions should be directed to the Town Clerk at:  
[admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk)

### COMING NEXT MONTH

- Summer events
- Annual Statutory Meeting report

