



THE UCKFIELD VOICE

April 2023

EDITION 242

thevoice

KING CHARLES III CORONATION

It was such a short time ago that Uckfield Town Council celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with the lighting of the Beacon and a party in the park. So many residents joined us at Victoria Pleasure Ground with their families and friends and came together to celebrate this historic occasion

Celebrating the Coronation

Now Uckfield Town Council would like to invite the residents of Uckfield and surrounding areas to do it all again and join us at Luxford Field on Saturday 6 May from 3pm -7pm to celebrate the Kings Coronation.

You are welcome to bring a picnic or buy food from the local food providers who will be joining us for the afternoon. Uckfield Town Council will be providing a bar and we will be entertained by local groups. It won't be a formal event and there will be no charge, we just hope it will be a place we can all come together after witnessing the historic ceremony.



The Big Help Out

On Monday 8 May we will be supporting the Kings 'Big Help Out' when he hopes volunteers will come together to support their communities in any way they can. This can be in small groups supporting friends and neighbours or larger groups clearing areas that have become overgrown or untidy. Perhaps plant a tree; create a community wild flower or herb garden; something to enhance where we live. Tell us your ideas by writing to the email address below.

We will suggest larger projects that we would like to see supported and details on how you can get involved on our Facebook page. Uckfield is a great place to live with so many amazing volunteers, let's come together and make it a coronation celebration.

Contact us through:

admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

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



WHAT'S INSIDE

- Spring into action
- Wealden Community Lottery
- Elections May 2023
- Last Month in your Council

SPRING INTO ACTION

NEAL MATHESON, RANGER

As we move towards Spring there are lots of things to do in Uckfields green and open spaces.

Uckfield is blessed with some wonderful green and open spaces and it is our job to make sure they are maintained and improved for the use and enjoyment of our residents and visitors.

Monitoring and helping wildlife

Again this spring we will be undertaking wildlife surveys. We are especially keen to monitor amphibian and reptile numbers. We have many species including newts, frogs, lizards as well as grass snakes, slowworms and adders. To help our birds we will be constructing and erecting a range of bird boxes in our woodlands and reserves to provide safe nesting sites and hopefully improve survival rates and increase their populations.

New boards for nature reserves

We currently have a project to redesign and commission new Information and interpretation boards for our two Local Nature Reserves. This is being included in the Wealden Community Lottery to



raise the money towards the cost of these new boards - see opposite.

Day to day commitments

We will continue to survey our woodlands and trees to make sure they are safe. Last year we undertook a lot of remedial works due to ash dieback disease and we will need to keep on top of this and any other dangerous trees. Part of this work is responding to enquiries and problems pointed out by the members of the public.

Natural flood mitigation:

We are working in conjunction with the Sussex Flow Initiative with the aims of easing pressure on Sussex watercourses during heavy rain events and increasing biodiversity. This will include constructing natural structures such as leaky dams to retain water on the landscape and reduce run off.

Repairs to fencing

This spring one of our other jobs will be to conduct ongoing repairs to the post and rail fence around Harlands pond.



WEALDEN COMMUNITY LOTTERY

Tickets for the new Wealden Community Lottery are now on sale!



WEALDEN
Community Lottery

The local lottery has been set up by Wealden District Council to help local good causes throughout Wealden to raise money.

How to take part

Tickets are available to buy online and cost £1 each. Winners could scoop up to £25,000. The draws will take place every Saturday at 8pm. The lucky winners will

be informed by email and will have the money transferred automatically into their bank account.

Support our project

Uckfield Town Council is looking to replace the information/interpretation boards within the local nature reserves in Uckfield (Hempstead Meadows and West Park) to share the history of these sites and the wildlife present with visitors. Your support with this project would be much appreciated.

Thank you for helping and good luck! To take part go to

www.wealdencommunitylottery.co.uk/support/uckfield-town-council

District, Town and Parish Council Elections Thursday 4 May 2023

ELECTIONS - THURSDAY 4 MAY 2023

From May 2023 voters are required to show photographic identification at polling stations before they are given a ballot paper.

Photographic ID

The most commonly used ID include:-
Passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, and EEA state or a Commonwealth country,

- Photographic driver's licence issued by the UK, Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state (including provisional)
- European Economic Area (EEA) photographic ID Card
- UK Biometric Residence Permit
- An identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram

(PASS card)*

- A Blue Badge
- Oyster 60+ Card
- A concessionary travel pass funded by HM Government or local authority (East Sussex County Council Bus Pass; Disabled Person's Bus Pass, Welsh or Northern Ireland travel card)

No suitable ID?

If you do not have any of the accepted photo ID, and you want to vote at the polling station, you will need to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate. This is a free photographic identification document specific for the purposes of voting. The application process is available at www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate.

LAST MONTH IN YOUR COUNCIL



Uckfield Leisure Centre

East Sussex County Council are running a public consultation on the future of Uckfield Leisure Centre and its facilities for a period of ten weeks. The consultation went live on Saturday 18 March 2023 and will run until Saturday 27 May 2023.

Consultation

The consultation can be accessed online at: <https://consultation.eastsussex.gov.uk/business-services/consultation-on-future-options-for-uckfield-leisur/>

Hard copies of the consultation can be obtained from Uckfield Library, the Civic Centre Uckfield and County Hall Library in Lewes. Service users, residents and businesses are encouraged to respond and put forward ideas.

Annual Town meeting

The annual meeting of parishioners took place on 15 March 2023. This provided an opportunity for the Town Mayor and the Chairs of the Council's

standing committees to present to the public their reviews of the past year. Members of the public were advised that the Town Council had been affected by increases in utility, material, fuel and labour costs but continued to work hard to maintain buildings and land, and provide for residents and businesses within the town. The annual report can be viewed on the Town Council website at: <https://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/key-documents/>

Main discussion topics

The main topics of discussion related to the Uckfield Leisure Centre, highway and footway maintenance, legal matters with regards to land in the town, the consideration of planning applications by the Town Council as a statutory consultee on local based applications, engagement with the Rt Hon Michael Gove on housing numbers, the Uckfield Festival and the forthcoming Wealden District and Uckfield Town Council elections.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Agendas and minutes can be viewed 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. All questions should be directed to the

MON 3 APR	– PLANS
TUES 11 APR	– GENERAL PURPOSES
MON 24 APR	– PLANS
MON 15 MAY	– FULL COUNCIL (ANNUAL STATUTORY)
MON 22 MAY	– PLANS

Town Clerk at:
admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

COMING NEXT MONTH

- What's on in Uckfield

