



THE UCKFIELD VOICE

January 2024

EDITION 251

thevoice

COUNCILLOR SOAPBOX

BY CLLR PETER SELBY

Uckfield Library is an invaluable resource that enriches the community and helps provide support to everyone.

Uckfield, like other towns and cities, has had a library for many years and offers a wide range of services from books and audio books to reference texts and IT facilities. The service is provided by East Sussex County Council and is free to use - though is of course paid through Council Tax levies. It is also a quiet place to be in, offering reading and study facilities.

Stories to inspire

The benefits of reading can never be understated and in this age of high technology, it is comforting that much literature is easily available in printed forms.



Uckfield Library has a wide range of topics, from astronomy to zoology, and comprehensive coverage of all genres of fiction. Assistance can always be given with the use of computers and Wi-Fi for those whose knowledge is limited.



Cllr Peter Selby

More than just books

In addition to the usual services of a library, Uckfield also hosts craft exhibitions with events planned for 2024 to continue the success of previous years. A 'rhyme time' is organised for young children and their parents/guardians on Tuesday mornings at 10.30am, and more information can be found from the librarians on site.

The Citizens Advice Bureau is also housed in the building and offers a wide range of help to members of the public.

Many of you may already use our local library, but for those who do not, pop along and find out more. It is free to join - which can also be done online - and proof of residence is all you need to get started.

*Happy reading,
Cllr Peter Selby*

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Contact us through:

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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OUR PARKS - BACK FOR 2024!

After a brilliant first full year in 2023, fitness project Our Parks is going even bigger in Uckfield with Wednesday and Saturday sessions at Harlands Farm Playing Fields.

Having started as an online project to get people active in their communities, Our Parks has grown across the country at an astounding rate, and now has support from Wealden District Council who fund sessions across the local area, including in the heart of Uckfield.

With January being the ideal time to start afresh for 2024, Our Parks' free sessions run by fully qualified and insured coaches are a great way to get outside and active.

No cost, no subscription

All Our Parks sessions are free and do not require any equipment to be brought along by participants.

Coaches only ask that you bring a bottle



of water to keep you hydrated, and recommend that if you have an exercise mat, you can bring it along.

As flexible events that work into your schedule, the sessions also allow participants to bring children over the age of three.

Turn up and tone up

Park classes last up to one hour, and it is suggested that participants arrive 10 minutes before the start time.

| LOCATION | ACTIVITY | DAY | TIME |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| HARLANDS FARM PLAYING FIELDS | HIGH INTENSITY INTERVAL TRAINING | WEDNESDAY | 9.30-10.30 AM |
| HARLANDS FARM PLAYING FIELDS | BOOTCAMP | SATURDAY | 9.30-10.30AM |

OURPARKS

You can come on your own or bring a friend, and coaches will be ready to welcome you and introduce you to other class members.

With sessions having been running in Uckfield for over a year now, a varied selection of age groups have been attending and new participants are joining all the time.

Session times

To get involved in sessions, all you need to do is to create a free Our Parks account at ourparks.org.uk, and then book your space at your chosen session.

There are two sessions a week on Harlands Farm Playing Fields, which are on Wednesday morning at 9.30am, and Saturday morning at 9.30am.

The next sessions are as follows:

- **10 January 2024 - HIIT**
- **13 January 2024 - Bootcamp**
- **17 January 2024 - HIIT**
- **20 January 2024 - Bootcamp**
- **24 January 2024 - HIIT**
- **27 January 2024 - Bootcamp**
- **31 January 2024 - HIIT**
- **3 February 2024 - Bootcamp**



UCKFIELD TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS 2024/2025

Applications now open!

Are you a community group or charity that needs financial help with a future project?

Will that project contribute to the welfare of the community by improving or supporting facilities and activities in the Uckfield Parish?

If so, why not apply for a grant to help your project? See the website below for guidelines and application form.

Closing date: midnight on Sunday 14 January 2024.

<https://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/community/town-council-grants-2024-25/>

COMMUNITY ASSETS

Right to bid

The Localism Act 2011 brought in a number of rights for communities, one of which was the right to register a building or piece of land as an 'asset of community value' (ACV).

Examples of buildings that can be registered as community assets include village shops, public houses, community centres, children's centres and libraries. Wealden District Council manage the nomination process and maintain a register of assets nominated and assets with unsuccessful nominations. When the asset has been accepted, the registration lasts for five years and the landowner and the person who made the nomination are notified of the forthcoming end to the registration.

What makes an ACV?

A building or piece of land can be regarded as an ACV if its main use is, or recently has been, to further social wellbeing or the social interests of the local community. Properties that have not had a social use for some years or are derelict are not covered by the Act.

Registered ACVs in Uckfield

- The Dene, Uckfield - until July 2026.
- Land at Selby Road, Uckfield (Selby Meadow) - until September 2026.
- The Town Council has recently



received notice that both Uckfield Leisure Centre (until November 2028) and Ridgewood Village Post Office (until December 2028) have been accepted and have now been added to the register.

The Town Council is awaiting a decision on the Brickmakers Arms. Town Council members have also tasked the Town Clerk with making three further nominations to Wealden District Council in the New Year; Uckfield Rugby Club, Uckfield Family Hub, and the Highlands Inn. In essence, a club, a hub and a pub! We will keep you posted on the progress of all of these applications in 2024.

Further information

Please read: <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/partnerships-and-localism/town-and-parish-councils-ordnance-survey-mapping/community-right-to-bid-assets-of-community-value/>

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Agendas and minutes can be viewed on the Town Council website at [https://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/agendas-and-](https://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/agendas-and-minutes/)

[minutes/](https://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/agendas-and-minutes/). Meetings are held in person either in the Weald Hall or Council Chamber at The Civic Centre and all start at 7pm. All questions should be directed to the Town Clerk at: admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

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|------------|---------------------------|
| MON 8 JAN | – PLANS |
| MON 15 JAN | – FULL COUNCIL (BUDGET) |
| MON 22 JAN | – ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE |
| MON 29 JAN | – PLANS |
| MON 5 FEB | – GENERAL PURPOSES |
| MON 19 FEB | – PLANS |

COMING NEXT MONTH

- Councillor Soapbox
- Sports Clubs and Facilities
- Events in 2024

