



THE UCKFIELD VOICE

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thevoice

TAKING TIME OUT...

BY TOWN CLERK, HOLLY GORING

It's not until you venture out into the town's open spaces and woodlands that you remember how important it is to take time out to breathe in the fresh air, observe the local birds and wildlife, and appreciate what Uckfield truly has to offer.

If you fancy a change of scenery, the Ashdown Forest, Barcombe Mills, Cuckoo Trail, Horsted Green park, and the South Downs are only a short drive away.

Uckfield, meanwhile, has so much for free right on the doorstep.

Uckfield itself hosts two local nature reserves (Hempstead Meadows and West Park), Millennium Green (Ridgewood), two ancient woodlands (Boothland Wood and Nightingale Wood) and countless open spaces. You can make a circular route of the town, heading north west from West Park through to Lake Wood, or heading north east towards Buxted Park (SSSI). Perhaps take a short break from working at home by sitting in the nature reserves. Take the longer route home after the school run or work, or make yourself a circular route on your lunch break.

Walks for the weekends

With Uckfield ideally placed as a hopping-off point for the entire south east, there is a huge list of local options for how to get active in the great outdoors.

Healthy Wealden

Wealden District Council launched this abundant and informative website back in 2020. It features details of open spaces,



play areas and sport sites: <https://www.healthywealden.co.uk/>

Circular walks

East Sussex County Council feature a list of walks here: <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/leisure-tourism/circular>

The All Trails app and website are also useful: <https://www.alltrails.com/en-gb/>

Free local exercise

At Ridgewood Recreation Ground, there is some brilliant adult exercise equipment that can form part of your walk.

Our Parks

Delivered by fully qualified and registered coaches, and suiting all ability levels, free one-hour classes from Our Parks are available at Harlands Playing Fields on Wednesday and Saturday mornings at 9.30am. To register your place, pop your postcode into the website, and sign up today: <https://ourparks.org.uk/>

Contact us through:

admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

[@uckfieldtowncouncil](https://twitter.com/uckfieldtowncouncil)



WHAT'S INSIDE

- Allotment Conference 2024
- People Need People
- Remembrance Services 2024
- Upcoming Meetings

ALLOTMENT CONFERENCE 2024

Last month, Uckfield Town Council was delighted to host the annual Allotment Conference and hand out the prizes of the Allotment Competition for 2024.

A busy evening on Wednesday, 11 September saw the conference's return as plot holders, allotment reps, Council staff and Councillors gathered at the Civic Centre Uckfield.

With fascinating talks, updates on allotment news and a recap of the successes and lessons of the last year, there was so much to catch up on. The results of each category in the competition were as follows:



CHILDRENS AWARD (Two joint winners):

- **Casey Harrison-Graves**
"Our raised beds are designed in the shape of a petal and Casey's bed is the centre feature. All plants have been carefully chosen by Casey and we hope to grow some of our own from seed next year. Casey is also responsible for the planting of the potatoes, carrots and parsnips. It has been a labour of love and hope and everyone is enjoying the change from what this plot used to be!"
- **Maya Kala Vilar**
"The slugs unfortunately ate the green and oriental salad leaves, so Maya entered the squash and peas instead."

BEST KEPT WINNERS (5) (Score out of 350):

- **Mr. Coleman** - Bell Lane - 283/350
- **Janet Snow** - West Park - 225/350
- **Ian Scutt / Sandy James** - Ridgewood - 275/350
- **Mrs. S. Read** - Bird-In-Eye - 255/350
- **Phil Manning** - Framfield Road East - 315/350
- **Andrew & Mary Ford** - Framfield Road West - 295/350

ECOLOGICAL AWARD:

Heather Berry - Framfield Road East - 71/100

OVERALL WINNER:

Phil Manning - Framfield Road East



BEST SCARECROW (nominations):

- 'Rex and Ursula' (created by Cllr. D. French) took up residence at the Civic Centre during the week of the Allotment Competition for passers-by to admire! Some materials were on loan from the 'Hospice in the Weald' charity shop on the High Street, so thank you to them.
- 'Grandad' made by David Hall.
- 'Stanley' created by Louise Tennant.
- 'Billy Birdineye' created by Steve Simons and his partner, Karen.
- The winner is '**Bob the Builder**' created by **Joelle Jeffery**, with help from the whole family, including their two small children.

PEOPLE NEED PEOPLE

In her year as Town Mayor, Councillor Karen Bedwell is keen to focus her attention towards local businesses and the voluntary and community sector. Businesses with corporate social responsibility benchmarks often wish to give back to the local community, and as well as supporting the local community, seek to engage their staff in tasks and activities which enable personal and team development. The voluntary and community sector can benefit from the expertise of local businesses, in several areas.

There are some exciting ideas to bring the two sectors together. Instrumental in delivering this alongside The Chamber of Commerce will be Wealden Volunteering, who are based in Uckfield High Street.



WEALDEN VOLUNTEERING

History of the organisation

Wealden Volunteering was first established in 1991 under the name of the Volunteer Bureau, and aimed to match individuals and groups with volunteering opportunities in the local community. Today, they do so much more and their support has broadened out to the villages and neighbouring towns, particularly after their rebrand this year.

Flexibility of roles

Volunteering doesn't always need to be something that you sign up to permanently, or a long-term commitment for the same number of hours every week. It can be carried out in bitesize chunks or part of an organisation's commitment to enable all staff to undertake volunteering days.

Initiatives such as taster days, away days, school visits, events and more can be arranged with their support. Volunteering is also an excellent way to learn more about a particular interest or career, helping you decide on a new career path and build your CV, or help to build confidence and meet new people.



Volunteer Fair 2024

To find more about volunteering opportunities in the Uckfield area, Wealden Volunteering are hosting their annual Volunteer Fair on Saturday 12 October, between 10.00am and 2.00pm at the Civic Centre, Uckfield. With over 25 charities and local organisations booked to attend, it's a great chance to explore your interests and make the next step!

Kings Award for Volunteering

It is also the perfect time for volunteer groups to be recognised for their achievements. Nominations are open as of 1 September 2024 via this URL: <https://kavs.dcms.gov.uk/>

REMEMBRANCE SERVICES

In keeping with normal tradition, Remembrance Service will take place at The Church of Holy Cross, Belmont Road, Uckfield, on Sunday 10 November 2024 at 3:00pm.

The parade will form in Luxford Car Park and those taking part, will be asked to gather in the 10-hour section of the car park (TN22 1AL) before proceeding to The Church of the Holy Cross for the Remembrance Service via Civic Approach, Uckfield High Street and Church Street.



After the service and the laying of the wreaths, the parade will reform and return to Luxfords Car Park via Church Street, Uckfield High Street and Library Way where the Mayor of Uckfield, Cllr. Karen Bedwell, will take the salute.

Importance of the event

This is a commemoration of huge importance to Uckfield, as is demonstrated every year with

the sizeable attendance from ex-servicepeople, members of the local community and representatives of local government levels.

Much preparation goes into ensuring the day correctly honours those who gave their lives to protect our own, and this year will be no difference.

The schedule of the day, as planned by organisers, is as follows:

Timings of the day

2:00pm - Guests and participants to meet in Luxford Car Park (TN22 1AL).

2:35pm - Parade departs for the Church.

3:00pm - Remembrance Service at the Church.

3:50pm - Wreath laying and playing of the Last Post.

4:10pm - Parade reforms and returns to Luxfords Car Park via Library Way, where the Town Mayor will take the salute.

Armistice Day – Monday 11 November 2024

As well as the commemorative events taking place on Remembrance Sunday, there will be a short service and maroons fired at the War Memorial outside of the Church of the Holy Cross at 11:00am on the morning of Armistice Day.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Agendas and minutes can be viewed on the Town Council website at <https://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/agendas-and-minutes/>. Meetings are held in

person in the Council Chamber at The Civic Centre and all start at 7pm. All questions should be sent to the Town Clerk at: admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

MON 7 OCT	- PLANS
MON 14 OCT	- ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE
MON 21 OCT	- FULL COUNCIL
MON 28 OCT	- PLANS
MON 4 NOV	- GENERAL PURPOSES

COMING NEXT MONTH

- Community Grants Programme
- 2024 Festivities
- Town Mayor Update
- Last Month in Your Council