



# THE UCKFIELD VOICE

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thevoice

## WEALD ON THE FIELD 2025 - SAVE THE DATE

BY CLLR. SPIKE MAYHEW

Uckfield Town Council is delighted to reveal further details about the ninth edition of Weald on the Field, which takes place on Saturday 9th August 2025.

Before we do though, it is worth going back through the history of the festival to see how we got this far.

Way back in 2016, a group of newly-elected Town Councillors were thinking of ways Uckfield Town Council could support the town and its businesses during the massive disruption of Phase 2 of the town regeneration scheme.

'Uckfield is Open' was the banner the working group came up with, and many ideas were formed for events to bring people into the town.

### The festival's origins

Along with street performers and classic car shows, along came Weald on the Field (WOTF). The vision was of local artists performing, local food and drink retailers setting up stalls, and entertainment being provided for children.

The event was a lot of hard work in its first year, but proved hugely successful.



This prompted us to put on WOTF 2 the following year. This was bigger and better, and supported by Wealden District Council and the Uckfield Chamber of Commerce.

It was decided that we would then make WOTF an annual event. We had help and support from local businesses who provided sponsorship for bigger and better bands, and with the help of Food Rocks, more food and drink stalls have joined us each year.

### WOTF 2025 Details

This year, Uckfield Town Council hosts WOTF 9 on Saturday 9th August. We are excited to announce the acts soon. Of course, we will be joined by some amazing food and drink stalls and plenty of our favourite community groups providing fun activities on the field too. The Town Council are proud to provide this free event, and we look forward to seeing you there on Saturday 9th August!

Contact us through:



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

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

### WHAT'S INSIDE

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- Update from the Town Clerk
- Upcoming Meetings



## MAYOR'S RECEPTION RECAP

On Saturday, 26th April, Uckfield Town Council were delighted that the Mayor's Reception made a triumphant return.

In keeping with tradition, the event was organised by the Town Mayor, with their choice of theme and recipients of charitable donations.

Cllr. Karen Bedwell selected a 1940s/'50s theme, with Uckfield's Swing Street Band adding some amazing live music to the occasion.

The event's slogan, 'Celebrating Volunteering in Uckfield', showed Cllr. Bedwell's aim to create an even greater sense of cohesion amongst Uckfield's volunteer groups this year.

*"The Mayor's Reception was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended,"* said Cllr. Bedwell.

*"We raised £750 for the 'People Need People' project, which has been my project for the Mayoral year."*

### 'An amazing body of volunteers'

Cllr. Bedwell has hosted and attended various engagements as part of the 'People Need People' project this year, and the Mayor's Reception was just the latest instalment in that.

*"Uckfield has an amazing body of*



Cllr. Bedwell (centre) was joined by Polegate Town Mayor, Cllr. Dan Dunbar (left) and Newhaven Town Mayor, Cllr. Pinky McLean-Knight.



The Swing Street Band performed a medley of 1940s and 1950s hits at the Mayor's Reception. (Photo by Sarah Widdowson)

*volunteers that support all ages and abilities, and many of the events that we enjoy as a town are put on by volunteers,"* said Cllr. Bedwell.

*"We need to find ways to support these volunteer groups so our community continues to thrive, and the 'People Need People' project is about trying to find new ways to support the groups with local business skills."*

### A Mayoral Surprise

A highlight of the evening was a special surprise for the Town Mayor herself.

*"Lydfords Care Home arranged with [Cllr.] Spike [Mayhew] to bring my mum to the reception,"* Cllr. Bedwell explained.

*"She hadn't left the home since September 2023 as she had been unwell. The thought and planning that went into this was amazing and I will never have the words to thank Anthony and the staff enough for what they did."*

Cllr. Bedwell added that she hopes the Mayor's Reception continues next year.

*"Every Mayor has the opportunity to support a charity. Every Mayor also has the chance to put on a reception. It would be lovely to have an annual reception in the calendar. If I get a chance to do it all again, it may well be an '80s Disco!"*

## VE DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT RECAP

With 2025 marking 80 years since World War Two ended in both Europe and Japan, the UK government and all levels of local government are leading a set of national commemorations. For VE Day's 80th anniversary on 8th May, Uckfield Town Council took part in the week of national celebrations. UTC's event took place on Bank Holiday Monday (5th May) at The Civic Centre Uckfield, with a street party-style event combining the entertainment of live music with heritage stalls, displays from local businesses and food and drink from Uckfield-based groups.

### Thank you to all involved



Uckfield Concert Brass concluded the afternoon's proceedings with an excellent arrangement of instantly-recognisable wartime tunes.

We were hugely grateful to all individuals and groups who were involved in the event, as well as all those who turned up to take part in the celebrations.

Cllr. Karen Bedwell said: "On Bank Holiday Monday, 5th May, Uckfield Town Council marked the VE Day 80th Anniversary in style at The Weald Hall with an indoor street party.

"Entertainment was provided throughout the afternoon, with performances from Uckfield Theatre Guild, Jimmy van Lin, the Uckfield Singers, Rosie Ann Page and Uckfield Concert Brass, who delivered a rousing finale.



The Royal British Legion's Uckfield branch were guests of honour at the event, with some fantastic feedback from members.

"With vintage stalls and food and drink from Twisted Toppings Pizza, Indulgent Ice Cream and the Uckfield & District Lions' BBQ, the afternoon was enjoyed by all the veterans, Councillors and residents who attended."

Cllr. Bedwell added: "It is 80 years since a generation of ordinary men and women gave selfless duty and service to save nations in Europe and worldwide from tyranny.

"In the uncertain times we live in today, it is more important than ever that those men and women are remembered as an enduring example to us all."

Guests of honour at the event, the Uckfield Royal British Legion Branch, reported their enjoyment of the event. Eric Senior, member of the Branch, said: "I think I can speak on behalf of the Branch members that attended the event. We thoroughly enjoyed it!"



# UCKFIELD CRICKET FACILITIES - ON THE UP!

BY HOLLY GORING, TOWN CLERK



April 2025 saw the upgrade of the artificial wicket at Victoria Pleasure Ground.

The Town Council has worked with Uckfield-based company, Sport & Play, over the past two years to upgrade the cricket facilities and we're really pleased with the results.

The work this year followed the replacement of the bowler ends, and the netting and mesh skirts of the practice nets which took place in 2024. Prior to that, the surfacing of the practice net areas was replaced and relaid.

It's a great achievement which supports the seniors and juniors at local club Uckfield Anderida, as well as improving the facilities for the wider community.

## Getting out and about

Are you looking for new places to visit through the summer months? Whether you are walking, cycling or just looking

for a change of scene, we are particularly fortunate that Uckfield itself has many beautiful open spaces.

The Town Council proudly manage several nature reserves, woodlands and recreation grounds. But did you know there are some other websites with great suggestions for walks in this area?

## Healthy Wealden

A great website for signposting you to key facilities, as well as walks within the local area: <https://www.healthywealden.co.uk/explore-the-outdoors/>

## Walks in East Sussex

East Sussex County Council have prepared circular works you can download, as well as links to countryside walks and long distance footpaths:

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/leisure-tourism/discover-east-sussex/walks-east-sussex-map>

Alltrails is also a great app to download on both Android or Apple devices.



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

MON 2 JUNE	- PLANS
MON 9 JUNE	- GENERAL PURPOSES
MON 23 JUNE	- PLANS
WED 25 JUNE	- FULL COUNCIL (AUDIT)
MON 7 JULY	- ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE

## COMING NEXT MONTH

- **Becoming a Councillor**
- **Weald on the Field Promotion**
- **Last Month in Your Council**
- **Upcoming Meetings**

