



THE UCKFIELD VOICE

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EDITION 272

thevoice

PLAY AREA PROJECT COMES TO FRUITION

BY CLLR. MICHAEL MCCLAFFERTY

I joined the Town Council in 2023 and mostly wanted to do my bit for the town I came to love, but I did have one priority - to see the Victoria Pleasure Ground children's play park refurbished. My family and I used to live near there and it was all too clear that the play park was, shall we say, past its prime.

What I should have known is that the Council was on top of it and the play park was already part of an established refurbishment schedule!

A budget was set to provide funds and a working group formed to work specifically on the project, including yours truly.

There's a set procurement procedure where quotes are sourced and a scoring/elimination process begins, where we whittle the quotes down to a couple of finalists. This involved two phases of public consultation from March to June, with posters and 3D representations of the quotes and equipment on offer. We hugely appreciated the attention and contributions of residents during this time, with the working group working hard to integrate many of the points raised.

The working group subsequently arrived at a recommendation for the Council, which



voted in favour of the proposals.

Delivering over £100k worth of project takes a concerted effort and it's not like the council was loaded with free time to begin with, so hats off to the Council officers for their hard work.

With the work now complete, I feel an immense pride in the work we do on the Council day in and day out, and the small part I play in it.

I have had the privilege of serving as one of your councillors for two years now and all I have met there are dedicated and caring individuals throughout the organisation.

We take great pride in this town we live in, and we hope you do too.

Don't hesitate to get in touch with us to let us know how we're doing, what needs looking at, or what could do with improvement. Or just as importantly, get in touch to say when someone in the Council has done a good job - it is hugely valued.



Contact us through:
admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk
[@uckfieldtowncouncil](https://www.facebook.com/uckfieldtowncouncil)

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ALLOTMENT CONFERENCE ROUND-UP

BY RACHEL NEWTON

There was a good turnout at the annual Uckfield Town Council Allotment Conference this year, which was held on Wednesday 10th September.

Once again, we were lucky to have been sponsored by Staverton Nursery for the Allotment Competition and the judges harvested many 'fruitful' winners. Congratulations to all of our talented winners, including 'Best Newcomers' and 'Most Improved' on each allotment site.

Allotment Competition Winners

The Winners this year included:

Children's Award - Leon Szymanska

Best Kept Winners:

Framfield Road East - Caroline Bunker

Framfield Road West - Chris Scraba

Bird In Eye - Dragos Cismas

Ridgewood - Amy Graves and Claire Harrison

West Park - Louise Tennant

Bell Lane - Tom & Rebecca Merchant

Ecological Award - Phil Manning

Overall Winner - Caroline Bunker

The Most Improved and Best Newcomer winners also received certificates and can be viewed on www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk

Scarecrow Competition

The Scarecrow Competition was also held in conjunction with Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association,



with many creative designs and 1st prizes handed out to the Children's, Business and Household winners. These were as follows:

Children's Award - Georgia and Jacob's 'Legoman'

Business Award - Uckfield Community Fridge's 'Mary Poppins'

Household Award - Wendy Tagg's 'Lady Tatty Flower'

Overall Winner - Carole Walden's 'Rag Bag'

This was followed by some inspirational Guest Speakers and a panel of experts for 'Gardeners Question Time' with questions from the audience.

Finally, a wonderful presentation was provided by the secretary of the Allotment Association. The Association have been em-'barking' on big plans to increase their involvement in the wider allotments community. They've made huge improvements to the allotment hut and are setting up a WhatsApp group for members. They also have plans to carry out the allotment checks next year on each site.

Key Dates for 2026

- Plant Swap Fest on Saturday 23rd May 2026 – The Source, Civic Centre Uckfield
- Flower and Produce Show on Saturday 25th July 2026 – The Weald Hall, Civic Centre Uckfield

Please get in touch if you are a local business involved in growing. We'd love to hear from you!

AUTUMN EVENTS AT THE CIVIC CENTRE

While the nights are drawing in and leaves are falling from the trees, Uckfield is nestling into a busy events programme through the autumn and winter months.

Weald on the Field and the Uckfield Carnival & Bonfire might be behind us, but there is a huge amount to look forward to that will get us out and active.

October

At the Civic Centre, autumn begins with a hot run of live music events.

On Saturday 11th, **Buddy Holly's Winter Dance Party** promises an afternoon full of nostalgic rock 'n' roll hits, recreating the iconic Winter Dance Party Tour of 1959 and 'The Day the Music Died'. Tickets for this special afternoon show (3pm start) are available for £22.50 from www.civiccentreuckfield.co.uk



This is followed by the **Tina Turner & Blondie** show, organised by MD Events, on Saturday 25th (7:30pm start).

November

Once the clocks have gone back, the Civic Centre offers even more brilliant live entertainment. **The Everly Brothers by Candlelight** (Saturday 15th, 7:30pm start) is perfect for this time of year, with the romance of a candlelit concert combining with a beautiful acoustic version of the Everly Brothers' timeless music.

Then, we'll travel back to the 1960s, with original Freddie & The Dreamers member, Alan Mosca, leading us through a celebration of rock history with the **Lollypops and Moptops** show (Saturday 29th, 7:30pm start).

December

With Christmas dominating the month, we have three perfectly festive events for you! On Late Night Shopping evening (Friday 5th December), the Civic Centre builds on the success of the first indoor **Rollerskating** event last year, with a second edition taking place in the Weald Hall.

Throughout the month, Luxfords Restaurant hosts its annual run of **Christmas Lunches** too! From Friday 5th to Saturday 20th, you can book in for your group of friends, family, business, charity, social group, or just for yourself. Delicious two-course and three-course options are available.

Our much-loved **Festive Afternoon Tea** also takes place on Saturday 20th (3pm start), with a delectable selection of sandwiches, cake, Christmas treats, tea, coffee and prosecco. Expect some live Christmas-themed music, too!

Finally, what would December be without Pantomime? Uckfield Theatre Guild present three fabulous days of Cinderella on 12th and 13th December. Grab your tickets now!



LAST MONTH IN YOUR COUNCIL

BY HOLLY GORING, TOWN CLERK



Access to life saving equipment

Uckfield is fortunate to have a large number of defibrillators around the town. The full list can be found on the Town Council website: <https://www.uckfieldtc.gov.uk/community/defibrillators-in-uckfield/>

Councillor Donna French asked if we could expand these facilities further, having seen Bleed Control Kits installed on several public buildings across East Sussex.

With the support of Uckfield & District Lions and AED Training, Uckfield Town Council has purchased and installed a Bleed Kit – located on the outside of the Civic Centre. This has been added to a national register, and can help first responders and members of the public provide immediate assistance whilst waiting for emergency services to arrive.

Harlands Playing Fields

Uckfield Town Council has been working with local sports clubs and contractors to make improvements to play and sports facilities at Victoria Pleasure Ground and Hempstead Recreation Field. We have also recognised that we need to do better to support those using Harlands Playing Fields and ensure our spaces are more inclusive. At present, despite the ground being marked out for adult and junior football, the space does not have any welfare facilities and therefore difficult for clubs to use for football training.

As a result, considerations need to be given to the creation of a longer-term facility. In the meantime, we will be arranging for the provision of a temporary toilet and storage facility to help during the 2025-26 season. We welcome your support as we encourage residents to use our open spaces, and for youth football clubs to have a space accessible for their club members.



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 6 OCT	- PLANS
MON 13 OCT	- ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE
MON 20 OCT	- FULL COUNCIL
MON 27 OCT	- PLANS
MON 3 NOV	- GENERAL PURPOSES

COMING NEXT MONTH

- Councillor Soapbox
- Half-Yearly Review
- Late Night Shopping Preview
- Last Month in Your Council

