



# THE UCKFIELD VOICE

SEPTEMBER 2025

EDITION 271

thevoice

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PROJECT - PART 2

BY CLLR. DONNA FRENCH

Following on from my earlier article about our wonderful Uckfield community spirit, I am back with more! Saturday 9 August saw a perfect example of our residents coming together to enjoy good food and music on Luxford Field with Weald on the Field. The atmosphere was joyous - as can be seen overleaf.

### Residents' Groups

Community spirit has many layers and levels. As well as events organised by the Town Council, resident groups play a vital role in fostering strong communities. These collectives – whether formal associations or informal networks – serve as a bridge between local authorities and people who live in the area, ensuring that residents have a voice in key decisions. By coming together, individuals can share concerns, propose solutions, and advocate for improvements. One of the strengths of resident groups is their ability to build social cohesion. They create opportunities for neighbours to connect and collaborate. Events like clean-up days, cultural celebrations or neighbourhood watch programmes not only improve the local environment, but



also foster a sense of belonging and mutual respect.

### Action in the community

These groups can identify issues that might otherwise go unnoticed – such as neglected green spaces or accessibility issues – and work to address them. A perfect example of this is the group that tidies the area by Pipers Field in Ridgewood. They have Facebook and WhatsApp groups to communicate with volunteers, who meet on the first Sunday of each month.

There are larger groups such as Manor Park & Hempstead Fields Residents' Association, New Town Action Group and Brighter Uckfield, to name just a few. We are adding a page to our website to help you find your local group. Thank you to our amazing community and volunteers who make such a difference and contribute to making Uckfield the wonderful town that it is.

Contact us through:



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



[@uckfieldtowncouncil](#)

### WHAT'S INSIDE

- Upcoming Community Events
- Allotment Conference News
- Weald on the Field 2025 Recap
- Last Month in Your Council

## TWO BIG COMMUNITY EVENTS AHEAD

This month, the Civic Centre Uckfield hosts two completely free community events for local residents.

On Thursday 18th September, a **Community Wellbeing Day** is being delivered by Uckfield's Ageing Well Forum, which includes Uckfield Town Council, Victoria Pavilion Arts and many more.

A wide range of stalls and activities are on offer for attendees to engage with. Then, on Saturday 27th September, the **Uckfield Eco Expo** returns for its second edition.

Uckfield Town Mayor, Cllr. Karen Bedwell, was inspired to restart the event after the success of the Green Shoots Fashion Show earlier in 2025.

Stallholder spaces are still available for local businesses or individuals who want to exhibit their green credentials. Please contact [karen.bedwell@uckfieldtc.gov.uk](mailto:karen.bedwell@uckfieldtc.gov.uk) if you are interested.

**Uckfield Eco Expo**

Do you have an eco-friendly or sustainable business and want to showcase it in Uckfield?

**27 September 2025**  
The Civic Centre Uckfield

For details, please contact [karen.bedwell@uckfieldtc.gov.uk](mailto:karen.bedwell@uckfieldtc.gov.uk)

## ALLOTMENT CONFERENCE COMING UP

On Wednesday 10th September, the Allotment Conference returns at the Civic Centre Uckfield.

All allotment holders are invited to attend, with a packed schedule of updates, discussion and prize-giving from the recent Allotment Competition

and Uckfield Scarecrow Competition.

Winners of all categories from the two competitions will be invited to receive their awards after a busy summer preparing allotment plots and assembling some brilliant scarecrows across town.

We were delighted to see the interest in the Scarecrow Competition in its first year being opened out to all Uckfield residents, not just allotment holders. We hope to build on this success next year, with help from Manor Park & Hempstead Fields Residents' Association.

The Allotment Conference begins at 7pm on Wednesday 10th September, and takes place in the Civic Centre's Weald Hall. Refreshments will be available throughout the evening.



# WEALD ON THE FIELD 2025 - WHAT A DAY!



All photos courtesy of official Weald on the Field 2025 photographer, Michelle Wallis Photography.

# LAST MONTH IN YOUR COUNCIL

BY HOLLY GORING, TOWN CLERK



## Play Area Upgrades

We have dates!

Play area company, Kompan, have scheduled to start work on the upgrade of the new play area at Victoria Pleasure Ground on 8 September. It's expected to take up to three weeks to complete, so please bear with us whilst contractors are on site.

A new CocoWave Pendulum Swing will also be installed at Hempstead Recreation Ground to replace the existing zip line. This work will commence on 17 September.

### It's About Time!

We know... it took far too long to see the Town Clock back up and working. We can only apologise on behalf of the parties involved for the delay. Difficulties arose once the former NatWest building

was sold and refurbished ready for let.

But, worry not, Greggs (ground floor lease holders) were more than happy to assist.



They arranged for a specialist contractor to remove, clean and refurbish the clock, as well as installing a new electrical supply to the clock. Uckfield Town Council then covered the costs of purchasing a new master controller unit and antenna, plus installation. I'm sure you'll agree we're all very happy to have the clock back up and working in its rightful place.



## 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 1 SEPT	- ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE
MON 8 SEPT	- FULL COUNCIL
WED 10 SEPT	- ALLOTMENT CONFERENCE
MON 15 SEPT	- PLANS
MON 22 SEPT	- GENERAL PURPOSES

### COMING NEXT MONTH

- A Trip Along the Tracks
- Allotment Conference Winners
- Autumn Events News
- Last Month in Your Council

