



THE UCKFIELD VOICE

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thevoice

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

BY CLLR SPIKE MAYHEW

Well here we are almost at the end of the year and six months into my term as Uckfield Town Mayor. What a wonderful year it has been! The deputy Mayor Cllr Jackie Love and I have really enjoyed our time so far, meeting wonderful, talented and enthusiastic people who live here and support our lovely town.

I have always been aware of people who give up their spare time volunteering and making a difference, but just how many, I never really knew until now.

Great events

We have had some fabulous events this year like the Big Day Out, Uckfield Festival, The Lions fete and who could forget the amazing Weald on the Field, the Bonfire Society Carnival also the Uckfield Revival.



@Ron Hill Photography

Cllrs Donna French, Spike Mayhew, Chris Macve and Jackie Love with other volunteers at Weald on the Field this summer



©Ron Hill Photography

I am looking forward to late night shopping, which is always a great evening and I cannot wait to see all the brilliant Christmas trees in Holy Cross Church together with the magnificent illuminations in the High Street.

Luxfords Restaurant refurbishment

If you haven't had a chance yet why not pop into the recently refurbished Luxfords Restaurant in the Civic Centre. I'm sure you will be in for a lovely surprise.

Finally thanks to all the officers and the rest of my Town Council colleagues who all work equally hard to try and make a difference to this town and I'd like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Contact us through:
admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk
 @uckfieldtowncouncil

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Holy Cross Festival of Christmas Trees
- Beacon lit for WW1 commemorations
- Luxfords Restaurant refurbishment



HOLY CROSS CHRISTMAS TREE

Uckfield Town Council sponsors the Holy Cross Church Annual Festival of Christmas Trees by lighting the large Christmas tree in the churchyard.

This is the eleventh year the festival has been running and it will be taking place on Friday 7, Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 December.

Last year the festival attracted over 6,300 visitors. There were 98 displays which had been sponsored by a cross section of Uckfield's community including schools, businesses, voluntary organisations, community support groups as well as individuals and families.

This year's festival is set to be equally as special and will feature a Civic Centre tree depicting the fairy tale Jack and the Beanstalk, our feature pantomime this year.



©Ron Hill Photography

TREE PLANTED FOR THE QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH CANOPY



©Ron Hill Photography

A rowan tree sapling was planted by Wealden MP Nus Ghani as part of the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy Scheme. This scheme seeks to unite the Commonwealth family of nations to save one of the world's most important natural habitats.

LIGHTING THE BEACON FOR THE WW1 COMMEMORATIONS



The beacon at Victoria Pleasure Ground was lit at 7.00pm on Sunday 11 November as part of the WW1 Beacons of Light initiative. Over 1000 beacons were lit across the country symbolising an end to the darkness of war and a return to the light of peace.

NEW, FRESH AND CONTEMPORARY LOOK FOR LUXFORDS RESTAURANT

After three weeks of refurbishment, Luxfords Restaurant in the Civic Centre Uckfield has opened its doors to reveal a fresh and contemporary décor.



The new look still incorporates some customer favourites including adequate space for people to move around, comfortable seating, space for pushchairs, free wifi and table service. The comfortable seating has been enhanced with the introduction of some Chesterfield sofas and tub chairs – ideal for morning coffee catch ups. The friendly, warm and welcoming ambience has been enhanced by new carpet and blinds.

Official Opening

The restaurant was officially opened by Uckfield Mayor Cllr Spike Mayhew at a themed Italian Opera Dinner on Friday 26 October where Glyndebourne soprano Thomasin Trezise entertained diners with some famous opera arias. There are plans to introduce more themed events in the evening, details of which will be posted on the Civic Centre website – www.civiccentrueckfield.com



Thomasin Trezise, soprano and Cllr Spike Mayhew officially open the restaurant at the Italian Opera Dinner

The Town Council would like to thank all the local contractors who helped to transform the restaurant in record time.

SETTING OUR DRAFT PRIORITIES AND BUDGET FOR 2019/20

External Auditor's Report 2017/18

Members were pleased to receive the external auditor's report for the financial year ending 31 March 2018, which reported sound financial and governance procedures.

Grass verge cutting 2019/20

Members were recently faced with a challenging decision on whether they should provide a financial contribution towards grass verge cutting. In 2018, the number of grass verge cuts, funded by East Sussex County Council, were reduced from five/six to two cuts per annum within the urban verge areas. Despite much debate, and a very close vote, the Town Council agreed to pay for four additional urban grass cuts in 2019/20 to enhance the existing

service by the County Council. This would cost the Town Council in the region of £6009 with the service being carried out by the County Council's contractors.

Setting our priorities and budget for 2019/20

The December meeting of Full Council will see members review the first draft of the priorities and budget papers for 2019/20. These papers will be placed on the Town Council's website following the meeting until Friday 4 January 2019. We would welcome your thoughts on the draft documents and proposed initiatives for the next financial year, before the budget is finalised at Full Council on 14 January 2019 and, the precept agreed.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Full Council agendas and minutes can be seen at Uckfield Library. If you wish to ask a question at a meeting, on items

on the agenda, it is advisable to submit your question beforehand to allow a full response to be given at the meeting.

3 DECEMBER	– BUDGET MEETING
10 DECEMBER	– PLANS
2 JANUARY	– PLANS
7 JANUARY	– GENERAL PURPOSES
14 JANUARY	– FULL COUNCIL (BUDGET)
21 JANUARY	– PLANS
28 JANUARY	– ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE

All questions should be directed to the Town Clerk - admin@uckfieldtc.gov.uk

COMING NEXT MONTH

- Calendar Competition winners
- Budget proposals

