



UCKFIELD & DISTRICT CHAMBER *of* COMMERCE

CONNECTING UCKFIELD'S
BUSINESS COMMUNITY



The Executive Committee

Uckfield Chamber of Commerce is governed by an Executive Committee of highly experienced, local business owners and professionals within the town.

You can contact any member of the team about any issue of concern or with any feedback, comments, or suggestions. All the Committee members are happy to speak informally over the phone or at Chamber meetings.

The committee meet approximately every six weeks as the need demands. Led by a President and supported by a Vice-President role, these positions are made by appointment at the Chamber AGM, which is usually held during March. The position of Treasurer is also agreed at the AGM (arguably the voluntary role that demands most time from an individual). Other Exec members will get involved in sub-committees for events like our biennial Business Awards and the annual Late-Night Shopping.

You can check out the current Executive Committee members here via the QR code.



Our Executive Committee

Past Presidents

One can become quite nostalgic looking back at those who have served the Chamber so well down the years in this leadership capacity. We can go back 60 plus years; how many names do you recognise?

Year of Service	President
1962	John Fareham
1963-64	Arthur King
1965	Cecil Pye
1966	Arthur King
1967	John Guy
1968	Ken Cornford
1969	Terry Baker
1970	William Winter
1971	John Kidger
1972	Brian Andrews
1973	Basil Wintle
1974	Dorothy Blackall
1975-76	Lew Gale
1977	John Will
1978	Clive Critchley
1979	David Peters
1980	Ron Ovens
1981	Lew Gale
1982	Chris Macve
1983	Anne Siggs
1984	Colin Cornford
1985	David Young
1986	Lew Gale
1987-88	Derek Thorpe
1989	Tony Walker
1990	Michael Wheeler
1991	Chris Lawson
1992	Bridget Wallace
1993-94	Chris Lawson
1995	Bob De'Ath
1996	Chris Macve
1997-98	Steve Dockree
1999	Malcolm Diamond
2000-02	Adrian Corbin
2003-04	Mark Arno
2005	Chris Macve
2006	Stephen Towers
2007-08	Francis Wallace
2009	Malcolm Diamond
2010-11	Peter Gale
2012-13	David Marshall
2014-15	Fiona Monson
2015-17	Bernard Smith
2018-20	Chris Lawson
2021-23	Gary King

Uckfield Chamber Membership

Connecting Uckfield's business community...

Uckfield is a town that is immensely proud of the diverse range of businesses represented both within the town and its surrounding villages. From large concerns employing hundreds of local people on our main industrial estate, to independent high street shops and a range of professional firms, to many rural businesses based either at home or within smaller estates, Uckfield is a great place to work.

Whatever your business, you'll find a warm welcome at your local, independent Chamber of Commerce. We offer a broad range of meeting opportunities both 'in person' at various times of the day and online.

If you're reading this and are not a member - how does your business join? A quick email or phone call is the best way to get in touch initially. We can meet for an informal chat to answer any questions you might have, or you can apply to join directly online via our website, which only takes a few moments. Full membership is reserved for businesses within the TN22 or BN8 post-code areas although businesses from further afield are welcome to apply for associate membership. The difference being is that only full members can vote at meetings and serve on our Executive Committee.

Our membership fee is published on the website and is payable annually, usually in April for the coming 12 months. Chamber membership is like most things in life: the more you put in, the more you get out! And although we are not a networking organisation per se, we provide plenty of opportunities for business owners and managers to network with like-minded people, locally here in Uckfield.

Do please connect with us on social media - please 'like' our Facebook page, 'follow' our LinkedIn page or 'follow' us on 'X' (formerly twitter). For any local commerce-led related question please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Ian Noble, Chamber Director



Scan for application form





Members' Meetings

We meet early evening in alternate months, at various locations both within and around Uckfield, with the March meeting being our AGM. Our flagship meeting opportunity for members only, the venues range from hotels, to vineyards, to occasionally member premises. Often the most popular, is when we visit a member and learn a lot more about that specific business.

Our members' meetings retain an element of formality with a published agenda, for those attending, and published minutes that appear within the Members' section within our website. We will always hear from the host venue and the meeting provides a platform to introduce new members. Each meeting will also host a keynote speaker and a subject that adds value to our member businesses.

In addition to the formal part of each meeting, there are plenty of opportunities for open networking and each occasion will offer a meal with bar facilities ensuring that there is a good degree of friendly, social interaction. For most meetings we charge a nominal fee, with the true cost often subsidised by the Chamber.

Networking Breakfasts

In the alternate months to the members' meetings, we meet 'in person' at the opposite end of the day for a hearty breakfast. The focus here is very much on networking both formally and informally. Again, held at local venues often of pubs, cafes or local restaurants, every attendee has the opportunity of a 60-second elevator pitch shortly after breakfast has been served.

In addition to briefly sharing your latest news with the whole meeting, each occasion also provides a keynote speaker with a wide range of subjects covered, again always relevant to running your business. It is an opportunity for members to step forward and share their expertise in addition to hearing from leaders of both District and County Councils.

The networking breakfasts are open to non-members of the Chamber, so they offer an ideal introduction to chamber life. Booking for the events is online and the breakfasts are always held on a Friday morning. It's a great way to finish the week! We aim to simply breakeven on each breakfast, passing the venue cost on to those who attend.



Virtual Networking

One positive legacy of the pandemic has been to retain online networking. Meeting in person isn't for everyone and we have found a continuing demand for regular online meetings. We host these monthly, usually on the first Wednesday between 9.00-10.00am. Unlike the other meetings, there is no need to book ahead for these online events. Members are emailed the link 48 hours ahead of the meeting and it's then a case of simply signing-in at the allotted time.

The model is like our networking breakfasts where everyone has a 60-second update opportunity although these slots can sometimes be slightly longer. We also invite members and others to fill a 10-minute speaker slot again sharing expertise to conclude each online meeting. Using the Zoom platform, the 'chat' facility allows exchange of contact details, with best practice for participants to share their information immediately following their turn to speak.

Also open to non-members although you will need to get in touch beforehand for the sign-in information. Meeting others from the comfort of your own office / home has never been easier although you will need to make your own coffee!

Uckfield Business Podcast

New for 2023, we were pleased to offer an alternative online monthly event in the form of a Business Podcast. We usually broadcast on the fourth Thursday at 12.45pm for just 45 minutes. Each show is broadcast live via the Uckfield Business Forum Facebook Group, using the StreamYard platform. You do need to be a group member to listen live although, of course, it is free to join, and the group currently boasts over 700 members.

We invite a guest to join us on each show, which often takes the form of an informal interview, or presentation. It's a great way to get noticed and share your experience and expertise. We also cover the latest Uckfield business news, including details of up-and-coming events.



While each show goes out live, it is also recorded and uploaded to our YouTube channel. Do 'like' and 'subscribe' to 'Uckfield Chamber' on YouTube where you can watch / listen back to past podcasts.



Late Night Shopping

Uckfield is a great place to live and work and enjoys some wonderful community occasions throughout the calendar year. One event that is a regular fixture in the calendar is Uckfield's traditional late-night shopping evening, which is organised by the Chamber.

Always held on the first Friday of December, almost every high street store will be open until 9.00pm. The high street is also packed full of both food and drink vendors offering the Uckfield public a huge variety of choice. Live music and other attractions provide for a great way to kick-start the festive season.

The Chamber launch each late-night shopping evening with a magazine guide to the event, kindly supported by many chamber members with festive adverts throughout the glossy publication. The magazine has a print run of 7,000 copies most of which are delivered to Uckfield homes.

Each late-night shopping evening can only happen because of the generosity of the many chamber members who organise road closures, stewarding, event health & safety, the entertainment, and much, much more.



Uckfield Business Awards

Launched by the Chamber back in 2012, we are proud to host Uckfield's Business Awards on a biennial basis. So, in alternate years, we celebrate all that is great and good about business in and around Uckfield.

Always held within the National Suite at the East Sussex National resort, as this is the only local space large enough to accommodate the 300 attendees. And it's only made possible by the generosity of our sponsors, many of whom have supported the event since its inception. Our sponsors are each allocated an award category and have the responsibility of judging their category, deciding their winner, and of course, they'll present their award on the night.

The awards are open to any Uckfield based business or chamber member and are free to enter, although you'll want to purchase tickets to attend if you're fortunate enough to be short-listed! With 15 categories and an overall 'Business of the Year' award, there is no shortage of entertainment during the presentation, which is interspersed between three delightful dinner courses.

Members' Directory

Our membership directory is Uckfield Chamber's 'Jewel in the Crown'. With an established and growing membership base of circa 200 businesses, we are amongst the largest, independent town-based chambers in East Sussex. It's often been said that Uckfield 'punches above its weight' when it comes to the population of our town relative to the success of the chamber.

Historically, the chamber published a printed directory of members, although no sooner was the ink dry on the page than it was out of date as another new business had joined. So, we have ditched that tradition and ensure that our online directory within our website is indeed, up to date.

You can access the directory via our website or use the QR code on this page to take you straight there. You can search via sector or there is a complete alpha list of members. Each directory entry provides contact information and a short description of the business member.

With a diverse range of businesses and professionals, you're sure to find a business solution for almost every need amongst our membership. Please do 'Shop Local' supporting our Uckfield high street and independent businesses.



Scan to see our directory



Visit our website for more information about Uckfield Chamber of Commerce

www.uckfieldchamber.co.uk

Contact us: secretary@uckfieldchamber.co.uk

- ◆ Join your local chamber today
- ◆ New members are welcome
- ◆ Support local business

