



The Bugle

No 270 5th January 2026
Always decent; never dull
Contributions to trading.as.wdr@googlemail.com

"People everywhere confuse what they read in newspapers with news."
A.J.Liebling

Roebuck Butchers ? Divided opinions

Comments on proposals to turn part of The Roebuck Inn into a farm shop are so far balanced for and against, with a few saying there should be a condition to keep it to a butcher's shop only, as promised by the new tenant. Residents have until Friday 9th January to submit comments on the Wealden planning website. Laughton Parish Council meets at 7pm on Wednesday 7th January to discuss the application.



Too hot for dogs, last year

225 bare root plants on order for later this month; if you haven't already volunteered to help and would like to get your hands dirty in a good cause, please email hello@racca.org.uk.

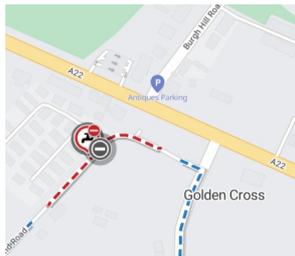
Busy 2026

Ripe and Chalvington Community Association is looking forward to a busy 2026 in the community field, with

The Bugle understands that plans for the second part of the community field, on Church Lane, got bogged down over the past year in planning discussions about possible environmental impact - odd for a for a community field. Now it looks like there's a better understanding of the aims of the project, and a detailed application should be lodged soon.

Looking ahead

Expect disruption and diversions at the top end of Deanland Road from 8am on Monday 12th January until 5pm Wednesday 14th January for a new water connection.



Night for day

January's full moon setting before dawn over Mount Caburn.

The first full moon of the New Year is sometimes called the Wolf Moon in the Northern Hemisphere, marking a time when it was believed that wolves howled more, as there was less food around.

However, it is also sometimes referred to as the Old Moon or Ice Moon.



Is it worth it ?

East Sussex County Council traffic planners have come back with potential bills over £120k as the cost of implementing 20mph limits across parts of Ripe village.

Ripe with Chalvington Parish Council would have to fund half of that; currently the Council raises less than £20,000 a year from council tax, to cover all its business over 12 months. The costs have surprised some residents, given that the bulk of the work would be simply to replace some of the current 30mph roundels on existing posts.

However County Council assessors talk about the need for speed 'buffer zones', requiring additional signage which, in their view, would be 'undesirable'.

The report will be discussed at tonight's Parish Council meeting, in Ripe Village Hall, starting at the later-than-usual time of 7.30pm.

Also up for discussion tonight, Monday: Plans for a holiday cottage on the west side of Channers Lane, Ripe.



Mythago, a dance troupe in the Border / Bedlam Morris tradition, will be part of the Wassail entertainment at Michelham Priory on Saturday 10th January.

Right: the bench at the traffic island outside Ripe Village Stores is back in place, after making way for the traditional Christmas tree. Thanks to Nick Apps and Nicholas Hamblin, it has a new coat of protective oil, underneath a touch of frost.



Upcoming services: Deanland Community Church will be holding a New Year Special, on Thursday 8th January at 10.30am, to include a 'New Year resolutions activity'. Everyone welcome at this ecumenical service.

Sunday 11th January brings a service of Holy Communion at All Saints', Laughton, at 10.30am, led by Revd Steve Osei-Mensah.

A reminder that Ripe Church will be closed until early March for the replastering and painting of the damaged lower walls.



Judith Shaw, current Poet-in-Residence with the Cuckmere Pilgrim Path, will be holding a writing workshop, open to all over 18, at Berwick Church from 7pm to 9pm on Monday 12th January.