

The Bugle

No 290 25th May 2026
Quality never goes out of style
Contributions to trading.as.wdr@googlemail.com

"To sit in the shade on a fine day, and look upon verdure, is the most perfect refreshment."

From Mansfield Park, by Jane Austen

Tories swing behind Reform UK



East Sussex County Council will be run by Reform UK, as a minority administration with 22 out of 50 councillors; at the opening of Thursday's first meeting, group leader Andy Woolley was voted council leader by 25 votes to 24.

He needed the support of all three Conservatives and the independent Stephen Shing (a former Libdem); one Reform councillor was absent. Reform UK's Martin Kenward was elected Chairman by the same margin, giving the party a casting vote. The Tories insist there was no pact with Reform UK.

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† Sunday 31st May (Trinity Sunday)
Holy Communion 8:30 am at Ripe
Led by Revd Steve Osei-Mensah
Deanland Praise 10:30 am at Deanland Park
Led by Revd Steve Osei-Mensah

Refreshments, plus...

Our local pubs are keen you spend time with them in this scorching weather. The Roebuck has a last opportunity to bottle feed lambs, today, Monday, between 12pm and 3pm. Their food offer is World Burgers, with matching beers. Tuesday sees the Boello Pizza Van.



At The Yew Tree in Chalvington, the outdoor pizza oven has already been fired up. Thursday 28th May brings the stoolball local derby, with Ripe and Chalvington Ladies entertaining Laughton Ladies. Play begins at 6:45pm.



Who exactly tells the seagulls that ploughing is underway? Ripe field activity, spotted by Eric Hunter.



Below, an early-season cinnabar moth, captured by Paul Boucher. They come from the black and yellow caterpillars that feed on ragwort and groundsel. The ragwort makes even the moths poisonous to predators, if they're not already discouraged by the bright red and black wings. Their flying life? Just a month.



Gold - again

Pelham Plants of Laughton struck gold again at the Chelsea Flower Show, for their display of hardy herbaceous perennials and grasses.



Paul Seaborne, who used to be a teacher, got his first gold in 2024. His two-acre nursery, just off Common Lane, is open to visit Fridays 9-5pm and Saturdays 9-2pm to the end of September, or at other times by appointment.

theLEWESIAN ^{Issue 56} Cover girl



Congratulations to Lisa Pritchard, who lives just off Cow Lane in Laughton; selected for the front page illustration and lead article of this month's Lewesian magazine. Lisa is not a trained artist, having spent most of her career in magazine publishing. She's now part of the Ringmer Art Collective. You can see more at lisapritchard-art.co.uk.

Fundraisers

Izzy Macdonald, 10, from Laughton, and the rest of her family, need sponsors for Tourettes Action. Mum Emma says "She was diagnosed only last November; we want to encourage everybody to educate themselves about the condition". You can support their Move For Tourettes at justgiving.com/page/e-macdonald-1



Selmeston Open Garden

The gardens of Sherrington Manor in Selmeston will be open from 11am to 4pm on Saturday 30th May, raising funds for St Wilfrid's Hospice.



Lunch boxes will be on sale, alongside other stalls.

The band '5 out of 10' provide musical entertainment in the morning and 'Hi Thyme' in the afternoon. Assistance dogs only.