

The Bugle

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It's where you live

Contributions to trading.as.wdr@googlemail.com

"The brain is a wonderful organ. It starts working the moment you get up in the morning and does not stop until you get into the office."

Robert Frost

More houses in draft local plan



Wealden Council is getting ready to send out yet another draft local plan for consultation in February and March, with increased targets for new houses and a call for more sites.

The Government's target for Wealden is 1,457 new houses a year; this new draft plan provides just 1,000, hence the call for new sites. Some parishes have been given additional allocations already, including 72 for Berwick, 380 for East Hoathly and Halland, 200 for Hellingly and 1,500 for Little Horsted.

For Chalvington with Ripe, and Laughton, there's no additional allocation, but the proposal for a 4,000 home development at Laughton Park Farm is listed for further consideration.

Another sixteen months

East Sussex are among the councils asking for the elections due in May this year to be postponed to 2027, because of likely re-organisation into a new unitary authority.

But Wealden District Council's leader, James Partridge says they should go ahead: "The suggestion that this election is pointless due to councillors only serving a two-year term is questionable.... Councillors voting to overstay their welcome does not improve the poor perception that the public has of politicians."



Treasure Island at Hailsham Pavilion is almost sold out, with a few tickets left for the 7pm shows on Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd January.

Careful Christmas 2026 shoppers will find a range of half-price offers at Ripe Village Stores. Step forward; no need for embarrassment.



Next service: Sunday 25th January, Holy Communion, 10.30am at Chalvington, led by Revd David Farey, retired to Seaford, previously Vicar of Hellingly and Upper Dicker.



Chip wreck

Beaches across Sussex were last week awash with the contents of containers that had fallen from ships during Storm Gorette. Below Beachy Head, there were hundreds of bags of defrosted chips. Other beaches got onions and disposable face masks.



Love is in the air



The incurable romantics that make up the Ripe Village Hall Committee propose transforming their venue into a 'Love Shack' for Valentine's Night, Saturday 14th February.

Michael Moran, of discotronics specialists "Sons of Ken", will be among those spinning platters from the 70s, 80s, 90s along with foot-tappers from this century. There'll be meat and vegetarian chilli and nachos on offer, plus margaritas and a full licenced bar.

Entry wristbands, at £5, are available at Ripe Village Stores.

A cascade of quizzes

Plenty of quizzes on the way. The Parents and Friends of Chiddingly School ask the questions at the Six Bells on Sunday 25th January, kicking off at 6.30pm. The Barley Mow Quiz is coming up at 6.30pm on Sunday 1st February.

And the Village Hall at Ripe asks you to save the date for their annual quiz on Saturday 28th February.

The Berwick Inn is having a Burns Night Supper, with live piper, on Saturday 31st January, requiring "traditional dress or smart wear".

Scenes of green in the churchyard at Ripe, with clumps of moss and snowdrops in fine form. The common naturalised snowdrop, *galanthus nivalis*, is sometimes known as Candlemas bells. Candlemas is coming up on Monday 2nd February.

