

The Bugle

No 289 18th May 2026
The paper that digs deeper
Contributions to trading.as.wdr@googlemail.com

"A door is what a dog is perpetually on the wrong side of."

Ogden Nash



High price for low limit

Chalvington and Ripe Parish Council has decided to drop its pursuit of a 20mph speed limit in the centre of Ripe on cost grounds.

The May meeting heard that East Sussex County Council were saying the job was much more complicated than just replacing the current 30mph limit signs where necessary; "revised speed limit extents, terminal signing changes, and buffer zones" were likely to put the total cost above £120k. That would require £60k from the Parish Council, which had only indicated a possible budget of up to £20k.

Councillors decided to pursue other options including warning signs and perhaps work on the 'Pepperham' traffic island.

Plans to bring cattle back



Local farmer Ed Gribble, former East Sussex NFU chair, who currently operates on land at Cobbe Place, Beddingham and Charleston, wants to bring cattle rearing back to Curls Farm in Ripe.

He's bought the 220 acres of land, which sits north and south of Mark Cross Lane, and has applied for permission to build a large livestock rearing unit, associated buildings and a new three-bedroom farmhouse. The fields were previously used for arable crops.

Woolley wants to lead council

Reform UK have elected Andy Woolley, new councillor for Heathfield and Mayfield, as their group leader on East Sussex County Council.



"We have 22 seats [out of 50], and we are under no illusions about what that means. Forming an administration will require the genuine support of others, and we are seeking that in good faith." The new council meets on Thursday 21st May.

"Rosy garlic", or more properly *Allium roseum*, came to us from the Mediterranean, and has become naturalised. The smell is said to be powerful enough to discourage squirrels and browsing deer away from gardens; people now often plant them alongside tulips for that reason.



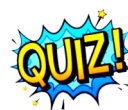
Singing with the quire

Evensong at Ripe on Sunday featured Sussex Harmony, musicians and singers with hymns and psalms from the 18th century. With a 'quire' swelled by interested volunteers, a workshop and a cream tea, the church resounded to that old time religion.

† Next service: Sunday 24th May, 10:30am, Holy Communion, Laughton, with Revd Steve Osei-Mensah.

Dame Felicity Lott

The much-loved English soprano Dame Felicity Lott has died, aged 79. She had a home in Seaford since 1986, having fallen in love with this part of East Sussex while performing at Glyndeboune. She was a patron of The Villages Music Festival and gave a masterclass to young local singers as part of the 2018 programme.



The charity quiz night planned by Ripe and Chalvington Ladies stoolball team for The Yew Tree, Chalvington has been postponed; watch this space for a re-scheduled date.

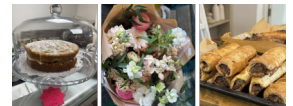
The campsite at The Yew Tree is now open; to making a booking contact Gemma via email to yewtreechalvington@gmail.com.



Free cricket coaching

Laughton Cricket Club are offering free coaching to boys and girls aged 4 to 11 for an hour every Friday night, starting on Friday 29th May at 5:30pm. All volunteers are DBS checked, but if parents want to come as well, there's an outdoor bar. Details from Jamie Russell on 07977 630711.

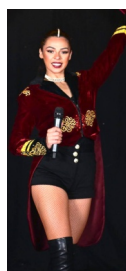
Open (nearly) all hours



Laughton Village Shop has extended its opening hours to seven days a week. Monday to Saturday, it's open from 8am to 8pm, and on Sundays from 9am to 4pm.

All the fun of the Fayre

The 80 acres of the Laughton Showground host the Cuckoo Spring Fayre on the 23rd, 24th and 25th May.



As well as the steam engines, tractors, classic cars and funfair, Jay Miller's Circus returns. New for 2026 is ringmistress Gina Morales (left), whereas Clown Peppi (right) has been performing with the show for thirty years, as well as being the company's transport manager.

