

The Bugle

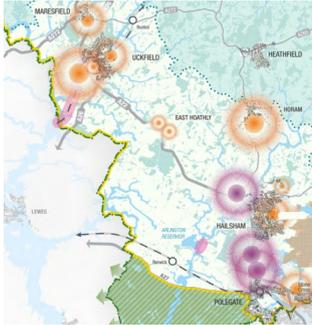
No 275 9th February 2026
Local news means the world to us
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"A crown is merely a hat that lets the rain in"

Frederick the Great

New plan with more houses

Wealden planners are asking for your views on a new draft Local Plan, which delivers 1,000 new homes a year, but still fall short of the latest Government targets.



The review of new sites marks the proposal of 4,000+ houses on land at Laughton Park Farm, into Halland and East Hoathly, as 'possible'. The only red flag is impact on 'land and townscape'. A number of the new sites are west of the A22.

There's a renewed call for additional sites; but all recently offered plots in Chalvington with Ripe, including Follengers Field, remain rejected. The consultation closes on 20th March.

Green lane goes brown



Part of the green lane running south of Ripe towards Langtye Lane has been cleared, levelled and filled with stones. Greenways are ancient rural trackways, protected around East Sussex for their history and contribution to fauna and flora preservation; local

walkers note that the lane also falls with the conservation area.

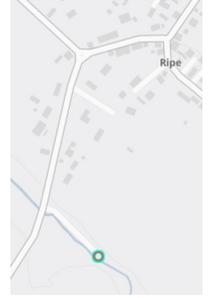
Parish councillors have been in discussion with the owners of Pittsfield (at the end of the byway), who have instructed the work, but there's no news of the outcome.



Services this week. Thursday 12th February "Valentines Special" at Deanland Wood Park, led by Graham Horsnell, starting at 10.30am. Sunday 15th February, Holy Communion at Laughton, led by Revd Simon Foster, at 10.30am.

13 sewage discharges

The water treatment plant off Mill Lane in Ripe has discharged sewage into Glynde Reach, which in turn feeds the River Ouse, thirteen times since the start of 2026, according to the website of operators Southern Water. By comparison, the plant recorded 16 storm outfalls over the whole of 2024.



The latest discharge, marked as 'genuine' on the website, started just after 2.30pm on Monday last week, and was stopped at 10pm on Sunday night. It had been running for over 127 hours. The longest previous discharge of 2026 was 54 hours starting on 27th January.

Sign language



Laughton residents are wondering "Why now?" New direction signs have appeared at the north end of Shortgate Lane, to help drivers on the B2192 between Halland and Ringmer. Older residents remember there used to be a finger-post to Laughton at the junction, which eventually rotted.

Highways have told Parish councillors that the signs are part of a programme of new safety measures along that part of the B2192, which is carrying more and more vehicles. It's to make drivers aware of the possibility of turning traffic; there'll be new road markings as well.

Mini-dome

UK space scientists have applied for planning permission for an additional telescope dome on their site at Herstmonceux. This new scope will provide tracking data on space debris that might prevent satellite collisions in the Earth's orbit.



The new dome will stand just 3.5m, which compares with 16m for the building which used to house the Isaac Newton Telescope, abandoned in the 1980s with innards shipped to the Canary Isles.



The team at Laughton Greenwood has had two Sunday volunteer sessions which they've called 'Community Coppicing'. Coppicing is an ancient woodland practice to thin small parcels of woodland - good for birds, butterflies and diversity in general.

