



# The Bugle

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We're getting there...

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*"You can no more win a war than you can win an earthquake."*

Jeanette Rankin

## No money for "new" A27

Readers may remember a time when National Highways and local Conservative leaders were pushing for a new A27, an off-line dual carriageway coming quite close to Ripe, between Lewes and Polegate. It was under consideration for a five year plan called RIS3, and led to protests about environmental and landscape damage.

RIS3 was finally published last week, with a focus on repair and maintenance from 2026 to 2031; the only major scheme along the A27 is the replacement of the rail bridge in Arundel.



South East Water have permission to close Firlie Road south of Ripe from the Langtye Lane crossroads today, Monday 13th April and Tuesday 14th April.

If you're thinking of taking the scenic route to Eastbourne on Wednesday 15th April and Thursday, 16th April, think again. The A259 will be closed during both days between Friston Hill and East Dean for the repair and replacement of road studs (cats eyes).

## Another postman's holiday



Despite the protesations of the new Czech owner, it seems the Royal Mail locally still has problems with sustaining regular deliveries of letters.

One Laughton resident enquired about a week without mail, and was told there was no one to cover the regular postman's holiday.

- The Roebuck Inn welcomes another food van on the evening of Tuesday 14th April, with The Hangry Bear team serving a range of smashed Waygu burgers.
- Arlington's regular village market, museum and coffee morning is on Tuesday 14th April from 10am to noon. The pop-museum features The Yew Tree Inn (Arlington version).

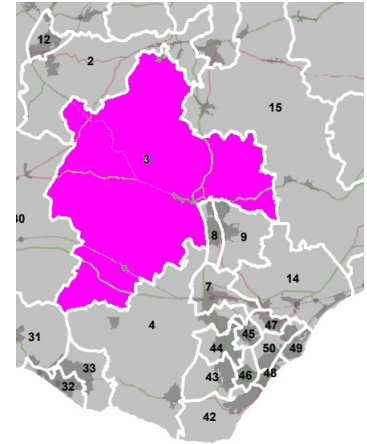
*Right: An atmospheric shot of downtown Ripe at dusk last Thursday, looking south along The Street. From Susan Tracy.*



*Left: Claire Palmer spotted this patch of wood anemones in a Ripe verge.*

## Pick from five

There are close to 9,000 voters in one of the largest East Sussex County Council wards by area. It's called Arlington, East Hoathly and Hellingly, but (in purple) covers many villages, including ours.



Five candidates are chasing one seat on Thursday 7th May. Existing councillor

Nick Bennett is seeking re-election for the Conservatives; Brendan Clegg, from Crowborough, is standing for Labour; Laura Murphy from Hailsham represents the Liberal Democrats; William Boone from Bodle Street Green is Reform UK's candidate, and Ricardo Canha, a vet from Eastbourne, is the Green Party candidate.

At the last full election for East Sussex, in 2021, Nick Bennett topped the poll with 1872 votes, ahead of the Greens in second place with 690, and the Libdems third on 345, on a 38% turnout.

*Below: a drone shot of progress at the 'Little' Horsted 400 Kv electricity substation, looking east over the A22. The project, over 35 acres of farm land, required 42,000 tonnes of aggregate for surfacing, and has cost £42m. Handover is due later this year. Credit: Adrian Hodges.*



## Top trio return

There's a midsummer visit to Ripe Church for The Astatine Trio, who were much appreciated back in June 2024. They've now got the accolade of selection as Radio 3 New Generation artists, on top of The Villages Music Festival. Tickets for a programme including Beethoven and Mendelssohn, on Friday 19th June are available now online at [villagesmusicfestival.org](http://villagesmusicfestival.org).



*The gardens at Limekiln Farm in Chalvington are open for the National Garden Scheme on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th April from 2pm to 5pm. Homemade teas, plants for sale, talk about medicinal plants in the Physic Garden at 3pm. Dogs on a lead most welcome.*