



News from Chalvington, Deanland, Laughton & Ripe

The Bugle

No 264 24th November 2025

Clunk click, every trip....

Contributions to trading.as.wdr@googlemail.com

"Acting is merely the art of keeping a large group of people from coughing."

Sir Ralph Richardson



Greenwood sets 600 tree target

The team at Laughton Greenwood is hoping to plant 600 trees on Sunday 30th November, with the support of volunteers.

This is their biggest target so far, with a mix of 20 native species aimed at improving the structure of the habitat and supporting biodiversity.

Volunteers are asked to book online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/laughton-greenwood/e-dyvxy. There are two sessions: 10am to 1pm and 1.30pm to 4pm. If you'd like lunch please bring a mug/bowl and spoon. Dress for the weather, bring a spade or garden shears if you have one. Hot drinks available but bring your own water and snacks.



Two days of road disruption in Laughton ended on Friday afternoon. UK Power Networks closed the B2142 west of The Roebuck; there was more trouble with vehicles stuck on Common Lane, trying to get round.

Malcolm Newland

Villagers in Ripe will be sorry to learn of the death of Malcolm Newland, formerly of Church Lane. Malcolm was one of Ripe's original petanque enthusiasts; he had moved to be near family in Hertfordshire, with his second wife, Val Rodbard, a stalwart volunteer at the Village Stores.



Chiddingfold Parish Bonfire Society, having seen off Storm Bert last year, braved the rain as they set off from The Six Bells for the parade and bonfire on Saturday night.

There's a Christmas Market at Laughton Village Hall, from 2pm to 5pm on Sunday 30th November. As well as a wide range of stalls, we are promised mulled wine, mince pies, tea, coffee and hot chocolate.

The Christmas Lights in Hailsham will be switched on this Friday 28th November, with Vicarage Field and the High Street transformed into a festive market from 2pm.



Yew Tree handover

There've been historic scenes at The Yew Tree in Chalvington over the past week, as the partnership that has run the pub for just over

twenty years transfers the business to new owners. Our picture of the quartet (Wiggy, Coomber, Thommo and John Handley - he gets a full name because he's the accountant) was taken at a party to celebrate with regulars old and new.

The new owner is Steve O'Keeffe, an English cricket fan who's made his money in the USA. He's moved from journalism to becoming an expert on Government IT, appearing regularly at Washington hearings. He has a mansion on the Potomac River, on land once owned by George Washington, and hosts annual charity cricket matches there. He's also a big campaigner for new approaches to arthritis treatment.



Field strips sold

Online estate agents and auctioneers Connect-UK have marked two plots of land as 'sold' on Follengers Field in Ripe; now they're promoting two more, to be auctioned on Wednesday 17th December, with a guide price of £15,000 each.

Advent study group starts



Tonight see the launch of a short Advent study at The Rectory in Laughton, from 6pm to 7pm. The Revd Steve Osei-Mensah will look at the first two chapters of Matthew; email Steve, Maggie Teager or Martin Chilvers if you'd like to take part.

Sunday 30th November: 8.30am Holy Communion at All Saints' Laughton, and 10.30am Praise and Worship at Deanland Wood Park Social Centre, both led by Revd Steve Osei-Mensah.



Scenes from the Lilley Lovett Theatre Group's production of Disney's Frozen Jnr, which played to three packed, appreciative houses at Laughton Village Hall last month.

