



# The Bugle

No 283 6th April 2026  
The big stories start here....  
Contributions to trading.as.wdr@googlemail.com

*"It's very hard to take yourself too seriously when you look at the world from outer space."* Astronaut Ken Mattingly, Apollo 16



## Water supply worry

South East Water boss David Hinton has told Wealden councillors that he couldn't yet guarantee to supply water to all the new houses proposed in the latest Draft Local Plan. "We've planned to meet the forecast we had in 2019 and we need to talk

to planners, government, local authorities [and] regulators about how we need to potentially adapt that plan to meet the extra houses going forward."

Mr Hinton also pointed to the case for a second reservoir at Arlington: "What climate change has said is 'you need to do that quicker now'."



## Remembering Jerry Light

Friends and family gathered for the funeral of Jerry Light last Wednesday, at Wealden Crematorium and afterwards at The Yew Tree in Chalvington. Jerry was born in Hastings in 1939, the youngest of seven children. He came to Ripe with wife Rita in 1981.



He liked buying and selling land, cars and antiques. For many years he owned the field that became Carriage Mews in the centre of Ripe, where he kept Dolly, a piedbald pony that he couldn't quite persuade to pull a trap. The field also hosted a party to mark Prince William's marriage to Kate Middleton in 2011. Jerry moved gently around the village in recent years, but he was still a demon on the dancefloor.



*A goldfinch perching on a flowering snowgoose cherry in Ripe. It's a very sociable bird, often living in loose groups, with a twittering song and call. Their fine beaks allow them to extract otherwise inaccessible seeds from thistles and teasels.*

## A month to polling day

Nominations for election to East Sussex County Council close at 4pm on Thursday 9th April, and, if social media is anything to go by, we can expect a bumper list of candidates for the 50 seats to be announced at 4pm Friday 10th April.



Hailsham Chamber of Commerce has organised a hustings meeting, starting at 6.30pm on Monday 13th April in the Civic Hall, Hailsham. Polling day is Thursday 7th May.

## Around our local pubs

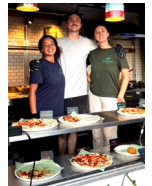


The King's Head in East Hoathly opened for business as a community-owned venture on Thursday last week.



The Anchor in Ringmer re-opened last week; it's now managed by Greg Coleman and Carla Marsh, the team that have run The Jugs in Kingston since 2024.

The Roebuck Inn in Laughton is marking Easter Monday with chances for children to bottle feed lambs, facepainting, and an Easter egg hunt, starting at 12.30pm til they're gone; on Tuesday, pizza specialists Boello are on site from 4pm to 8pm.



The Berwick Inn is offering one free kids meal with every adult meal purchased until April 11th.

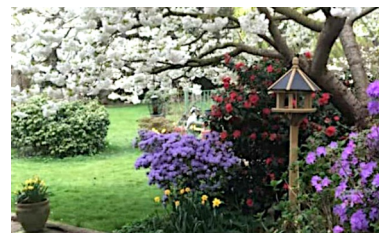
The Barley Mow at Selmeston has a bouncy castle on site and a two-courses for £22 meal deal today, Monday.



*Easter Sunday flowers in Ripe Church*

Upcoming services: Deanland Community Church Service, Thursday 9th April 10.30am, Deanland Social Centre. Pastor Graham Horsnell says "This will be a memorable, ecumenical Service, including amazing faith-building stories. If you need encouragement, you won't want to miss this". Sunday 12th April 10.30am Morning Prayer at Chalvington.

The Barn Dance planned for Laughton Village Hall on Saturday 11th April, featuring The Sussex Pistols, has been postponed.



## Open garden

Take a stroll round "Squirrels" on Saturday 11th April. This medium-sized garden, in The Street, Arlington, features views to the Downs, cherry trees, camellias and azaleas, with many spring bulbs. Entrance by donation to St Wilfrid's Hospice, refreshments available, park at the Village Hall, assistance dogs only. 11am to 4pm.