

The Bugle

No 306 14th September 2026

Connecting people

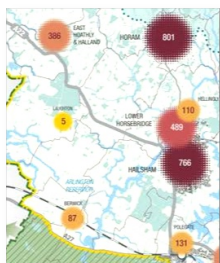
Contributions to trading.as.wdr@googlemail.com

"A boy can learn a lot from a dog: obedience, loyalty, and the importance of turning around three times before lying down."

Robert Benchley

New Wealden housing plans

Wealden's new draft local plan challenges the Government on house-building. The Government's target for Wealden is 23,440 new homes from now till 2042; Wealden says they only need 16,833. And the new plan delivers all but 400 of those.



The plan also rejects possible development of 4,000 houses at Laughton Park Farm; the Oakleigh proposal might have given Wealden 925 extra houses by 2042. The document says there'd be major negative impacts on landscape and townscape, as well as transport. East Hoathly and Halland still gets an extra 382 homes in other schemes accepted by this plan.

Five extra houses are included for Briars, Church Lane, Laughton where a plan for seven houses was recently refused. There are no new houses in the plan for Ripe; a call for eight homes at Deanland Wood Park was rejected. Also rejected is the Grosvenor development proposal of 2,000 north of Michelham Priory.

Council re-organisation: on hold



Plans for a single East Sussex Council, alongside a bigger Brighton, are now under review; any local elections in 2027 will use existing boundaries.

Councillor Rachel Millward, for Wealden council, said, "We made clear in our initial response that the process was moving too quickly and had not been fully thought through." Andy Woolley, Reform UK leader of East Sussex County Council, said it was a "common sense decision that should have been taken months ago". The council had given notice of legal action against the government over the reorganisation.

Laughton & District Agricultural Society's Annual Ploughing match starts 9am on Wednesday 16th September at Houndean Field, just off the Brighton Road out of Lewes.



The Yew Tree in Chalvington is holding a Spanish Tapas Night on Saturday 19th September, with food on offer from 6pm to 9pm. To book, call 01323 811326, or email yewtreecalvington@gmail.com

Fancy some Jungle Curry (Kaeng Pa) or Gun Hill Chilli Honey-roasted Salmon? Both are on offer at The Roebuck's Thai Night, on Thursday 24th September. Bookings essential - by email to bookings@theroebuckinn.co.uk or call 01323 379272.



Two flags at dusk over St John's, Ripe. Top, the Royal Standard to mark the anniversary of the King's Accession. Bottom, a modified Stars and Stripes with the words "We will never forget", to mark 25 years since the horrific terrorist attack on the twin towers in New York.



Landlord Doug Marshall showing customers the new farm shop at The Roebuck in Laughton, now open seven days a week.



Heading for the last weekend of Artwave 2026, locally, at Black Sheep, Darp Lane (above left), in Laughton Church (above right), at Curls Cottage in Ripe, and 1 Railway Cottages by the Ripe level crossing.



Dialogue at Laughton

Best-selling author Horatio Clare is in conversation with Antony Penrose, director of the Lee Miller Archive, on Friday 18th September.

The event is part of the Artwave offer at All Saints' Church in Laughton, and starts at 7pm. Tickets, at £15, are online at collectiva.co.uk/events-list



Next services: Sunday 20th September, 10am Family Holy Communion at St John's, Ripe - please note earlier than usual time.



The team at RACCA are on the hunt for raffle prizes, as part of the Fun Dog Show coming up on Saturday 26th September, at Ripe's community field. Contact Lucy Thomas via hello@racca.org.uk

Online auctioneers are still trying to sell parcels of Follenger's Field in Ripe, now resorting to bird's names for 0.7 acre plots at a guide price of £25,000. The land is still rejected for development by Wealden. Below, Eric Hunter's picture of the misty field just before sunrise.

