

# The Bugle

No 288 11th May 2026

There is no substitute

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*"Politics is perhaps the only profession for which no preparation is thought necessary."* Robert Louis Stevenson



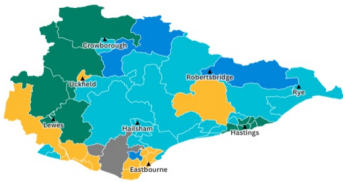
William Boone out campaigning along the A22

## Reform UK win

William Boone, 75, an Old Etonian, six time open rackets champion, and now a retired business director from Bodle Street Green will represent Arlington, our local ward, on East Sussex Council when it next convenes on May 21st. Mr Boone took most of his support from the Conservatives - previous councillor Nick Bennett, who won with 1872 votes in 2021, fell back to second place, on 1176. William Boone got 1784, on a turnout of 46.4% (up from 38.6% in 2021). Ricardo Canha, for the Greens, trailed in third place, with 835 votes; Laura Murphy got 789 for the Liberal Democrats, and Brendan Clegg won 133 votes for Labour.

The new political map of East Sussex:

Reform UK	22	+22
Liberal Dems	13	+2
Green Party	11	+7
Conservative	3	-24
Independent	1	-2
Labour	0	-5



The new council meets on Thursday. Will Reform UK run a minority administration, or could a Green/Libdem alliance emerge to take control ?

## Services in the week ahead

Thursday 12th May Ascension Day  
Communion service 10.30am at Deanland  
Led by Graham Horsnell

Sunday 17th May  
Holy Communion, 8:30 am at Laughton  
Led by Revd Steve Osei-Mensah  
Morning Prayer 10:30 am at Ripe  
Led by Revd Steve Osei-Mensah

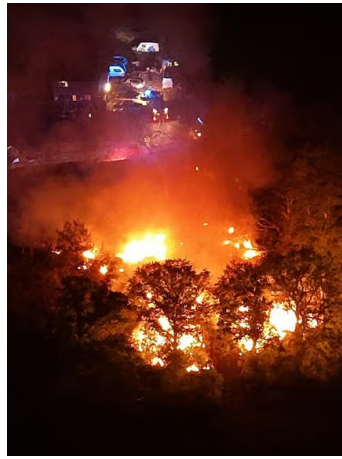
Sing Forthrightly With Good Courage Workshop  
2:30 pm at Ripe Hayton Baker Village Hall  
Led by Peter Teager

West Gallery Evensong, 6:00 pm at Ripe  
Led by Revd Steve Osei-Mensah



The outdoor season is well underway. Ripe & Chalvington travel to Barcombe on Tuesday 12th May and then Chiddingly on Thursday 14th May; their next home game, at the Yew Tree, Chalvington, is against Isfield on Thursday 21st May, followed by the visit of Laughton on Thursday 28th May.

Laughton host Wivelsfield on Tuesday 12th May, then Adastra on Thursday 14th May, and visit Chiddingly on Thursday 21st May.



## Gas bangs

Exploding gas canisters destroyed three farm buildings in Ailies Lane, East Hoathly overnight on Tuesday. Six fire engines were already on site dealing with the blaze, but just before 1am, crews

withdrew to a 200m exclusion zone. The fire was left as a controlled burn until morning; damping down followed. The farm owners specialise in raising game birds.

## Now water CEO walks

Dave Hinton, Chief Executive Officer of South East Water since 2020 resigned on Wednesday. He'd been with company for 30 years, starting as laboratory manager. The previous week brought the departure of company chair Chris Train.



## Award-winner at King's Head

Mark Harwood is the new chef at the community-owned King's Head in East Hoathly. He's moving back to Sussex from The King's Head in Mickleton, in the north Cotswolds. He trained at catering college in Eastbourne, with spells at The Hydro and The Yew Tree, Arlington. Since then he's

worked at Gravetye Manor, and run the kitchen at East Sussex National, winning two AA rosettes.

## Summer at The Yew Tree

The Yew Tree in Chalvington has lined up a full programme of Saturday music, as it prepares to move service to the marquee and fire up the outdoor pizza oven from 30th of May. Bands perform from 4:30pm to 7pm, starting with The Offbeat, and ending on 29th August with Mickey & Trevor.



## Webmasters

Blackthorn and hawthorn hedges around our villages are carrying patches of grey webs. They're probably the work of hundreds of caterpillars of Small Ermine Moths, of which there are eight species. The nets are designed to protect them from predators. The webs should disappear by midsummer, and usually the hedges recover.