



News from Chalvington, Deanland, Laughton & Ripe

The Bugle

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Pinch, punch, the first of the month

Contributions to trading.as.wdr@googlemail.com

"There are three stages of man: he believes in Santa Claus; he does not believe in Santa Claus; he is Santa Claus."

Bob Phillips



Objections to Church Lane plans

Laughton Parish Council has objected to outline plans for seven new homes along the east side of Church Lane. Members decided the proposal would damage the landscape and rural character of the area; be a risk to wildlife corridors; and hadn't come up with a safe and suitable access plan.

So far, there are eight letters of objection from neighbours, most arguing that the development would increase existing flood risk along the lane. A decision is due this month.



Looking ahead, Network Rail's Infrastructure team have been given permission to close Ripe Lane from midnight on Saturday 13th December, to 4.00am on Monday 15th December.

Below, Revd Steve Osei-Mensah about to lead his first service at the Social Centre in Deanland Wood Park on Sunday morning.



There's a Village Artisans Craft Fair at Berwick Village Hall on Saturday 6th December from 10am to 3pm; free parking and entry, and "top notch" refreshments.

On Sunday 7th December, 10.30am to 2pm, Deanland Wood Park hosts a Christmas Arts and Craft Fayre. There's a raffle for a Christmas hamper, and many other prizes.



There's been no shortage of fiery sunsets as we move into December, but here's a rosy sunrise over Ripe from last week.



Christmas comes early

The traditional Christmas tree on the island in Ripe went up on Saturday, a week earlier than expected.

So the official 'switching on' of the lights has been brought forward to this Thursday evening, 4th December. Ripe Village Stores will be open for refreshments, hot dogs and

burgers from 5.30pm; and lighting up time is 6.30pm. It's hoped people will come in good voice to sing a few carols round the tree.



A reminder that if you have children visiting Ripe on Christmas Eve, and you'd like them to get a present from Santa, you'd be advised to help him out by delivering something wrapped and labelled by Friday 5th December to Ripe Village Stores.

On Christmas Eve, the walk along Church Lane from the shop to the church is usually lit up with tea-lights. You can help that happen again by dropping spare jam jars to the box outside the garage door at 3 Church Lane Cottages.



Laughton's official lighting up comes on Sunday 7th December, starting at 4.30pm in The Roebuck Inn.

There'll be singing from Soul Voices and the Lilley Lovett Theatre Group, before moving outside for carols, switch on and a visit from Santa. Please bring a torch. If you want Santa to give your child a present, please make sure it's labelled and handed in to the Roebuck, ideally the night before, or before 4pm.



The annual general meeting of Ripe and Chalvington Flower Committee decided to donate a total of £1450 to local good causes.



Arms on view

Heraldry fans have a chance of a close up view of the coat of arms of George III at Laughton Church on the morning of Tuesday 2nd December. The painting, known as a 'hatchment', hangs up high, and is being taken down for a safety check; for a closer examination, it will be on show to the public from 9.30am to 10am, before going back into position, above the chancel arch.