



The Bugle

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Beyond words
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"I thought I'd begin by reading a poem by Shakespeare, but then I thought, 'Why should I? He never reads any of mine.'"
Kenneth Williams

May vote back on

The 2026 election for East Sussex County Council is back on, with polling day on Thursday 7th May. The deadline for submitting Nomination Papers is 4pm on Thursday 9th April. The deadline for making sure you're on the voting register is Monday 20th April; you have until Tuesday 21st April to apply for a postal vote.



The last full election was in 2021; the current make-up of the Council is

- Conservative: 21
- Liberal Democrats: 12
- Labour: 5
- Green: 5
- Independent Democrats: 2
- Independent: 3
- Reform UK: 2

The news of the election was welcomed by James MacCleary, Lib Dem MP for Lewes and also currently East Sussex County Councillor for Newhaven and Bishopstone. He said: "I am so pleased the hokey cokey the government has been playing with our elections is over."



Sam Adeniji, who sits for Seaford North on East Sussex County Council, switched from Conservative to Reform UK at the end of last month. He used to be Clerk to Chalvington with Ripe Parish Council.

Lent reflections

There's a four week series of Lent Studies running at Laughton Rectory, starting at 6.30pm on Monday 9th March. They'll be based on "In Quietness And Trust", by Matt Searles, covering the Beatitudes delivered by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. Please contact Maggie Teager if you'd like to attend.



✠ Next service: Sunday 1st March, Holy Communion 10.30 am at Laughton, led by Revd Steve Osei-Mensah. Work to repaint lower walls of Ripe Church continues - seven coats, each needing to dry fully. The Church will be open for Mothering Sunday, March 15th.



Tickets are still available for Ripe Village Hall's Annual Quiz, at £15, from Ripe Village Stores. They include a light supper of either Beef Chilli, Chicken Curry, Veggie Chilli or Vegetable Curry. It's on Saturday 14th March.



Non-stick ?

Laughton resident David Larkin, as an upstanding citizen, went online to East Sussex Highways to report a dangerous pothole at the main crossroads in Laughton on Wednesday last week. The hole was just by the crossing for pedestrian refuge, and he told them it presented a serious hazard to pedestrians and cyclists/motorcyclists in particular.

He was impressed to see contractors for East Sussex Highways filling the hole close to midnight the same day. Top - his photograph at 7.45am on Thursday; bottom, the same hole just an hour later, at 8.45am on Thursday. "Sadly, breaking up already...."

Let there be lights

A long road closure, with a five mile diversion to reach the A22, was averted at Deanland this week. Park manager Nyree Earley managed to persuade electrical contractors installing power supplies to new homes at Golden Cross, that they could manage the work with traffic lights.



Laughton Cricket Club have started indoor nets at Uckfield Leisure Centre on Sunday afternoons ahead of the new season. Call Joe Light on 07956 258018 for full details.

Snappers at work

Peter Teager caught this common kestrel keeping an eye out for any shenanigans in Follengers Field, Ripe. Falco tinnunculus has near ultra-violet light vision, which means in daylight it can spot urine trails near rodent burrows. The average kestrel makes four to eight kills a day. Below, regular early-riser Eric Hunter was rewarded with this shot of a fiery sunrise to the east of Ripe.

