

The Bugle

No 278 2nd March 2026
Don't leave home without it
Contributions to trading.as.wdr@googlemail.com

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade."

Charles Dickens



Night work

10 kilometres of the A27 from Beddingham to Drusilla's face overnight closures in both directions from Tuesday 3rd March

until Sunday 22nd March. The road will be fully open on the nights of 4th, 8th, 13th and 17th March. Residents and businesses between Middle Farm and the Barley Mow can ask for escorts to get to their property.

There's some work required on verges, some new, unspecified earthworks and some resurfacing between West Firlie and Selmeston.

No cover for postman's holiday

The national campaign about poor letter delivery service took a local angle in parts of Ripe last month. One resident suddenly received two week's worth of mail in one bundle. On checking, she was told her postman was on holiday for two weeks and "Royal Mail have no spare staff to cover". Another householder nearby missed out on birthday cards for seven days.



Royal Mail bosses have been called to appear before MPs of the Business and Trade Committee on 24th of March, along with regulator Ofcom and leaders of the main postal workers' union.

Come dancing

Looking ahead, there's church-fundraising Barn Dance coming up at 7.30pm on Saturday 11th April at Laughton Village Hall. Once again the music comes from The Sussex Pistols. Tickets - £30, or £20 for teens - include a meal and a welcome drink. There'll be a raffle and a donations bar. Buy online at lrchurches.co.uk/events, or from Ripe Village Stores.



Next services: Sunday 8th March 8.30am Holy Communion, 10.30am Morning Prayer, both at Chalvington, both led by Revd Steve Osei-Mensah



Ripe and Chalvington Community Association has taken delivery of 200 hedging plants and the remaining tree specimens such as this Mountain Ash (left) to complete the planting in the community field. Spades at the ready for a planting work party this Saturday 7th March, from 9 am and the same time on Sunday 8th, if needed. All are welcome.



Shop changes hands



The Bugle is happy to publish a message from Allison Wright, of Laughton Village Shop, received on Friday last week.

To all my lovely customers,

I would like to thank you for all your support over the last 7 years, I will be retiring Friday 6th of March 2026, Mr & Mrs Karia will be taking over the shop & Post Office alongside my lovely team who will be supporting and working alongside.

I will miss you all and will hopefully see you around and about.

With kindest regards

Allison

Sarah Griffiths, secretary of the Laughton Village Community Benefit Shop Ltd, says "Customers and the many shareholders of Laughton Village Shop will be saddened to hear of Allison's imminent departure at the end of this week.

"We wish her a very happy and well deserved retirement in the months to come. If anyone would like to sign a 'Farewell' card, please speak to one of her wonderful team in the shop who will be able to help you."

More about the new managers in next week's Bugle

The deeds for the King's Head, East Hoathly, have been handed over to the new Community Benefit Society, and adverts have been placed for a Pub Manager and Chef. The committee says "The doors will need to stay closed for a little while longer as we get to work upgrading some areas. But when they open again you can expect a refreshed, redecorated bar area, improved free Wi-Fi, and fully refurbished toilets!"



Progress at the new Wealden Sports Hub in Hailsham, with two FIFA-quality 3G football pitches now in place, and car parking covered in solar panels.

Signs of spring in the verges near Ripe church; purple crocuses, probably a variant of crocus tommasinianus. Originally from Bulgaria, Hungary and Albania, they were named in honour of the 19th century Italian botanist Marcus Tommasini. This plant is commonly referred to as Elfenkrokus (elfin crocus) in Germany, and here, they are sometimes just "tommies" in the nursery trade.

