News from Chalvington, Deanland, Laughton & Ripe

The Bugle

No 315 16th November 2026
For the life we live
Contributions to trading.as.wdr@googlemail.com

"No guest is so welcome in a friend's house that he will not become a nuisance after three days"
Plautus

Overcrowding



Urgent and emergency services at Eastbourne District General Hospital 'require improvement' according to the Care Quality Commission. They point to 'overcrowding' impacting patient dignity and privacy, low staffing levels in the children's emergency department, and some gaps in nurse training.

The report goes on: "Despite these pressures, staff consistently treated patients with kindness and compassion. However, medicines were not always managed safely. Triage processes were not consistently in line with guidance. Repeat observations of patients were not always timely and oversight of the waiting area was limited. Leaders were capable and highly committed, but they were not always able to identify and manage risks effectively."



A new noticeboard for Laughton Parish Council at the Village Shop. The Council meets at 7.30pm, Wednesday 18th November in the Parish hall.



Next church service: Sunday 22nd November 10.30am at Ripe: The Festival of Christ the King, a service instituted after WW1. Photo by Jenny Bowman.

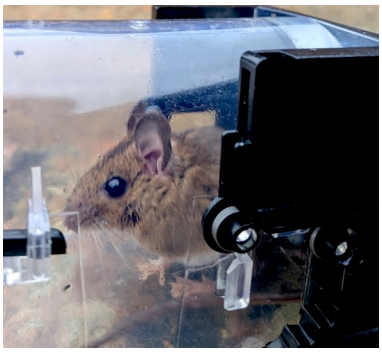
CHIDDINGLY BONFIRE

The procession for Chiddingly's Bonfire assembles at The Six Bells at 7.30pm on Saturday 21st November, proceeding to Pekes Manor. Fireworks will be at 9.30pm.



Claire Palmer spotted this magic carpet of autumn leaves. They're from a ginkgo tree, the emblem of Tokyo, which also gives its name to the stylish topknot sported by top-class Sumo wrestlers.

Mice make their move



The early winter of 2026 is proving a busy time for pest control around our villages, with more and more calls for help to get rid of mice around the house.

November is the traditional time when field mice abandon the fields, post-harvest, and seek warmth and more food. Paul Clarke of Go Pest thinks the hunt for something to eat is more intense this year, after last year's abundance of acorns from oaks in a mast year.

Paul also notes more call-outs because mice are getting into vehicles and damaging wiring, apparently not at all scared of cars that are in daily use.



Half-term train strain

Buses will replace trains between Lewes/Brighton and Three Bridges over nine days in the February 2027 half-tem - between Saturday 13th and Sunday 21st February.

A range of projects includes new rails at Plumpton, and work on the Wivelsfield junction.

Concert dates

Our Local Villages Choir, who rehearse in Laughton, will be performing Mozart's Missa Solemnis, at 4pm on Saturday 21st November in Holy Cross Church, Uckfield. There are also works by Fauré, Saint-Saëns and Vaughan Williams.

This year, the Choir's Carol Concert is at Ripe Church, at 5pm Saurday 12th December, with tickets at £10 from www.lvchoir.org.uk - your chance to join in the Hallelujah Chorus !



Val Hopson of Ripe captured this most photogenic mushroom on a local walk. It's the fly agaric, toxic when raw, which needs specific, careful cooking to be edible. The common name comes from the medieval practice of breaking up the caps and leaving them in milk to stupefy and kill flies. It has hallucinogenic properties which Siberian shamans traditionally used in December ceremonies; Siberian herdsmen also use them to help round up scattered herds of reindeer - they're mad for them.

A new shelf of local pottery work at Ripe Village Stores, as we head towards Christmas...

