

# The Bugle

No 287 4th May 2026  
There are some things money can't buy  
Contributions to trading.as.wdr@googlemail.com

*"The word May is a perfumed word... It means youth, love, song; and all that is beautiful in life."*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



## Use your vote

It's polling day for 50 seats on East Sussex County Council on Thursday 7th May, and polling stations at Ripe Village Hall and Laughton Parish Hall will be open from 7am to 10pm (remember to bring photo ID).

Five candidates are contesting Arlington ward, Conservative, Green, Libdem, Labour, and Reform UK; the last such election was in 2021, without Reform UK in the frame. The Conservatives held the seat with 56% of the votes; the Greens were second, on 20%.

Opinion polls find local elections harder to predict than national votes. Poll Tracker UK suggests East Sussex will move from Tory held to 'No Overall Control'.



## Water change

Chris Train, 65, from Solihull, has resigned as Chair of South East Water, after criticism from a committee of MPs. He was awarded an OBE in 2014 for services to gas and electricity.

## Take a Peke ?

Peke's Manor, an early Tudor Grade II-listed manor house in Nash Street, now used principally as a wedding venue, is on the market with 8/9 bedrooms, an indoor swimming pool and 16 acres for £2.44m.



✝ On Sunday 10th May, there's a service of Holy Communion at 10.30am, at All Saints', Laughton, led by Revd Steve Osei-Mensah.

The Roebuck Inn is bringing back lamb bottle-feeding today, Bank Holiday Monday, from 1pm to 4pm, weather permitting. And Brighton-based pizza specialists Boella Co will be back outside the pub on Tuesday 5th May from 4pm to 8pm. Right: "The Hot Ronnie".



## Save the Fete date

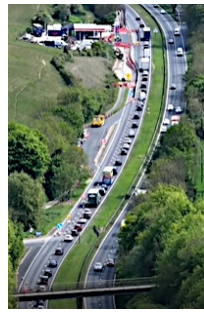
Laughton Village Fete will be back on Saturday 27th June, with games, refreshments, craft stalls and dog-show from 2pm to 5pm. Running alongside, for the second year, will be a Flower Show in Laughton Church.

## Jigsaw selling

The online auctioneers trying to sell parcels of agricultural land at Follengers Field in Ripe have adopted some odd shapes for their latest promotion.



There is no planning permission to build, or sign of an application, and the three parcels of land (looking south to Church Lane) do not seem to exactly line up with the current public footpath route across the field.



## Along the A27

The short term price of a quick pasty has been long delays along the eastbound A27, where one lane has been closed to allow building of a drive-through Greggs at the Esso garage just west of the Ashcombe roundabout.



The lane closure is set to last another week; then there'll be overnight disruption in the same area for road repair and resurfacing lasting until the end of May.

Further east, drivers along the A27 last Monday evening were distracted by a fire on farmland south of Ripe; fire engines were called to deal with the blaze.

## Mine host

The King's Head in East Hoathly, now community-owned, has appointed Mark Norman manager. He's recently been bar manager at the Old Deer Sports Ground, Richmond, home of London Welsh Rugby. Mark has family in Horam and Robertsbridge, and has long been a regular fisher at Bewl Water.



## More men needed

LVC, the choir that rehearses in Laughton Village Hall, is short of male voices to balance its sound. Director Linda Glenn has told current members to "go forth and gather up any likely men".

The choir's rehearsal at 8pm on Monday 18th May will be open to all, to encourage potential new joiners and give them a taste of how the choir works.

Works currently in progress are some upbeat settings of "It was a lover and his lass", and Serenade To Music by Vaughan Williams.