

SUMMER 2023 | #DISTRICTNEWS

**DN**

MAGAZINE



**In this issue:**

**Creating a new wetland**

**Meet your councillors**

NEWS FROM ACROSS  
THE LEWES DISTRICT



Lewes District Council

# Hello

Welcome to the  
summer 2023 edition of  
DN, brought to you by  
Lewes District Council

I am delighted to introduce to you, in this edition of DN, my fellow Cabinet councillors and hope you find our four-page feature on all councillors useful if you want to get in contact with your ward councillor. As the Co-operative Alliance, we will be building on the hard work and achievements of the previous administration and making more improvements for the benefit of people living across Lewes district.

Among these is the £400,000 programme of upgrades to play areas across the district, each one being shaped by the residents and children who use them. With four new public consultations underway, we hope people continue to give us their views on what new equipment and facilities they would like to be installed in their local play area.

It's wonderful to see work taking place this summer on the Cockshut Stream which had been blighted by a non-native invasive plant. This project will realign

the stream and create a new 6.8 hectare wetland in Lewes, bringing a host of environmental benefits and better access for people to visit this beautiful landscape – just one example of the way we are finding nature-based solutions to climate change.

Our new Lewes reception area in the former Paperchase building at 6 Cliffe High Street has been welcomed by many residents for its central location. Please call in with enquiries during office hours, or if easier, you can contact us using our live chat function on the website, [www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk](http://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk).

It's a landmark anniversary for Artwave as the festival celebrates 30 years since the council set it up to make the arts more accessible. I hope you enjoy the summer and take the opportunity, if you can, to visit some of the fantastic Artwave exhibitions in September that showcase the breadth of creative talent in our district.



**Councillor Zoe Nicholson**  
Leader of Lewes District Council

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## Get in touch

DN is available in large print, audio or in another language upon request.

To receive DN by email visit [lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/district-news](https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/district-news)

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# Youngsters' delight at playground upgrade plans



**Residents and local children are being asked their views on what improvements they would like at four play areas in Lewes district.**

Public consultations have been launched for Valley Dip Play Area in Seaford, Hillcrest Court in Newhaven, Malling Rec in Lewes and Stanley Turner Rec, also in Lewes. The consultations run until 18th August.

Views given in these surveys will help inform what new equipment will be installed there.

This is part of a £400,000 programme by Lewes District Council to upgrade and redevelop play areas

across Lewes district over two years.

To take part in the consultation for any of these play areas, visit [makingadifferenceinlewesdistrict.com](http://makingadifferenceinlewesdistrict.com)

Earlier this year, Lewes District Council held surveys about improvements to two playgrounds in Landport, Lewes – Landport Recreation Ground and De La Warr Green, and two in Seaford – at Aquila Park and The Peverells.

Thanks to around 200 people who took part in the surveys. Work on these four play areas will be completed by the end of the year.



“Thank you to all those who have participated in our consultations so far; sharing your views helps ensure our playground transformations are the perfect fit for local families who use them.

“It will be exciting to see these upgrades taking shape over the coming months for the enjoyment of children and parents across the district.”

**Councillor Wendy Maples, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Wellbeing**

# The creation of a new wetland in Lewes

Artist's impression of The Cockshut Stream Restoration Project when completed.

**Work is underway to realign a stream and create a new wetland habitat in Lewes, bringing an array of environmental benefits.**

The project is a partnership between Lewes District Council, Ouse and Adur Rivers Trust, Lewes Railway Land Wildlife Trust and South Downs National Park Authority and will bring huge biodiversity benefits and reduce flood risk in the area.

Adjacent to the Lewes Brooks, the Cockshut is a 3km long chalk stream that flows from springs at the foot of the South Downs in Kingston, eventually joining the River Ouse before flowing out to sea. The Cockshut

is currently clogged up by a non-native invasive plant called parrot's feather. By realigning the stream, the old channel can be filled in, eradicating the problem plant, and the stream will flow into a newly created 6.8 hectare wetland, to the east of the Stanley Turner Ground. The Cockshut Stream Restoration Project will be completed by autumn 2023.

For more information visit [cockshutstream.org](http://cockshutstream.org)

In addition, the council recently purchased Landport Brooks, almost 37 acres of land in Lewes, to deliver environmental improvements and conserve the area's biodiversity.

**“It's fantastic to see work taking place on this project which will not only enhance biodiversity, help with flood management and carbon storage, but also allow the stream to flow unimpeded, unpolluted and with its native plants and wildlife protected.**

**“The area will be accessible too so that people can enjoy its natural beauty using new walkways and bridges.”**

**Councillor Emily O'Brien, Cabinet Member for Climate, Nature and Food Systems**



# New alliance at Lewes District Council



Lewes District Council Cabinet councillors.

An alliance of the Green Party and Labour Party is now running Lewes District Council. Councillor Zoe Nicholson, Leader of the Green Group, is the Leader of Lewes District Council and Councillor Christine Robinson (Labour) is Deputy Leader.

Following the local elections on 4th May, the Green Party became the largest party on Lewes District Council with 17 councillors, while the Liberal Democrats have 15 and there are nine Labour councillors.

Councillor Nicholson's first Cabinet includes five Green Party and three Labour Party councillors.

The Cabinet councillors and their portfolios are:

**Councillor Zoe Nicholson**, Finance, Assets and Community Wealth Building

**Councillor Christine Robinson**, Community Wellbeing

**Councillor Laurence O'Connor**, Planning and Infrastructure

**Councillor Wendy Maples**, Neighbourhood Wellbeing

**Councillor Emily O'Brien**, Climate, Nature and Food Systems

**Councillor Mark Slater**, Tenants and Those in Housing Need

**Councillor Johnny Denis**, Arts, Culture and Tourism & Leisure

**Councillor Chris Collier**, Innovation, Delivery and People

The Chair of the Council is **Councillor Ian Alexander**. The Deputy Chair is **Councillor Lesley Boniface**.

Lewes District Council has 41 councillors representing the 21 wards which make up Lewes district.

“Our Co-operative Alliance will continue the ground-breaking work of the previous administration with energy and commitment to all the people we serve across the district and will have the benefit of a constructive critical friend from Liberal Democrat colleagues.

“I am also really delighted that we are breaking the mould with the only all-female leadership team in East Sussex, with Christine Robinson, Labour, joining me as Deputy Leader. It's an honour to serve alongside her and create a new way of working. This is the first time two women from two different political parties have led Lewes District Council.”



**Councillor Zoe Nicholson**, Leader of Lewes District Council

# Your district councillors

For more details about Lewes district councillors, visit [lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk](http://lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk) and search for 'Who are my councillors'?

## Chailey, Barcombe and Hamsey

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**Councillor Joa Saunders**  
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**Councillor Mark Slater**  
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**Councillor Paul Mellor**  
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07773 766792

## Ditchling and Westmeston

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## East Saltdean and Telscombe Cliffs

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**Councillor Ian Alexander**  
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07792 175854



**Councillor Laurence O'Connor**  
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07876 561880



**Councillor Christine Robinson**  
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01273 579613

## Kingston

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## Lewes Bridge

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**Councillor Stella Spiteri**  
stella.spiteri@lewes.gov.uk



**Councillor Janet Baah**  
janet.baah@lewes.gov.uk  
07709 968337



**Councillor Zoe Nicholson**  
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# Your district

For more details about Lewes district council services and search for 'Who's Who'.

## Lewes Castle



**Councillor Nick Kortalla-Bird**  
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**Councillor Wendy Maples**  
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**Councillor Graham Clews**  
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**Councillor Paul Keene**  
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## Newhaven South



**Councillor James MacCleary**  
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**Councillor Graham Amy**  
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01273 514942



**Councillor Christoph von Kurthy**  
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**Councillor Charlotte Keenan**  
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## Newick

## Peacehaven East



**Councillor Cathy Gallagher**  
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**Councillor Paul Davies**  
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## Peacehaven North



**Councillor Ciarron Clarkson**  
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**Councillor Isobel Sharkey**  
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are my councillors'?

## Priory



**Paul Keene**  
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**Councillor Imogen Makepeace**  
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07831106777

## Newhaven North



**Councillor Julie Carr**  
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**Councillor Sean MacLeod**  
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## rk Ward



**Charlotte Keenan**  
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995188



**Councillor Lucy Agace**  
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**Councillor Johnny Denis**  
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**Councillor Emily O'Brien**  
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## Ouse Valley and Ringmer



**Paul Sharkey**  
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405



**Councillor Chris Collier**  
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**Councillor Nikki Fabry**  
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**Councillor Daniel Stewart-Roberts**  
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## Peacehaven West

## Plumpton, Streat, East Chiltington and St John

# Your district councillors

For more details about Lewes district councillors, visit [lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk](https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk) and search for 'Who are my councillors'?

## Seaford Central



**Councillor Stephen Gauntlett**  
stephen.gauntlett@lewes.gov.uk  
07932 806770



**Councillor Freddie Hoareau**  
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**Councillor Ezra Cohen**  
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**Councillor Becky Francomb**  
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## Seaford North



**Councillor Roy Clay**  
roy.clay@lewes.gov.uk  
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**Councillor James Meek**  
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07579 021489



**Councillor Christine Brett**  
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01323 890597



**Councillor Olivia Honeyman**  
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07500 729136

## Seaford West



**Councillor Lesley Boniface**  
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**Councillor Christina Bristow**  
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**Councillor William Coupland**  
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07889 052334

## Seaford East

## Seaford South

## Wivelsfield Ward

# New council reception opens



Councillor Christine Robinson and Councillor Zoe Nicholson outside the new council reception building

**Lewes District Council has opened a new public reception area at 6 Cliffe High Street in Lewes town centre.**

Residents can visit the reception with enquiries during offices hours, Monday to Friday. In addition, people can also contact an adviser via 'live chat', available on all pages of the council website, [lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk](http://lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk)

World-renowned arts charity Charleston has moved into the former council offices in Southover Road.

Charleston in Lewes will open in September with

*Bring No Clothes: Bloomsbury and Fashion*, the first major exhibition to explore the influence and legacy of the Bloomsbury Group on fashion.

Alongside this will be a free programme of co-produced community projects, artist-led workshops and gallery activities, welcoming families and young people. There will be a learning programme for local state schools, further education and higher education groups. A pop-up café run by Lewes-based Caccia & Tails and a shop providing retail space for local artists and makers will complete the offer.



“Our new reception area is a great, centrally located resource where residents can have all their enquiries handled quickly and efficiently, in addition to the systems we now have in place online.

“I’m delighted that Charleston will also soon have a Lewes town centre location too, extending the reach of this cultural institution to people who may not have visited their home in Firle.”

**Councillor Christine Robinson, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing**

# Help with finances for people on low incomes



**Lewes District Council is offering funds to residents on a low income who will miss out on the government's £900 cost-of-living payments.**

The 'Safety Net' payment is available to eligible residents who are struggling to keep warm, buy enough food or pay essentials.

To qualify, you must currently receive housing benefit or a council tax reduction but not one of the means-tested benefits that would qualify you for a cost-of-living payment from the government, unless you also qualify for a disability or carer's benefit.

The award is a one-off payment of £400 and will be paid into your bank account. The funding is limited and will be paid out on a first-come, first-served basis. Apply via the grants portal [www.grantapproval.co.uk](http://www.grantapproval.co.uk)

**We are working to support as many people as we can who are struggling to make ends meet due to the cost of living crisis, so please access support that is available to you."**



**Councillor Mark Slater, Cabinet Member for Tenants and Those in Housing Need**

## Extra council support

If you are struggling to pay your council tax or need to claim housing benefit, find out if you are eligible for help by visiting: [lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/council-tax-reduction](http://lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/council-tax-reduction)

Information on exceptional hardship payments for our most vulnerable residents is available at: [lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/EHP](http://lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/EHP)

If you might get evicted, you could qualify for discretionary housing payments. Visit: [lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/DHP](http://lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/DHP)

Help with food costs and utility bills for any form of fuel that is used for domestic heating, cooking or lighting is available through the Household Support Fund. To check whether you can apply, visit: [lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/HSF](http://lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/HSF)

## Warm spaces

Twenty Warm Spaces in Lewes district welcomed hundreds of people a week over the winter. The council provided £50,000 to voluntary sector partners to set up and run the warm spaces amid soaring energy costs, as part of its work to combat the cost of living crisis.

# Support with your household bills



## Help with food

If you are finding it difficult to afford food, local community food projects might be able to help. Contact Lewes District Citizens Advice (see page 14) to discuss your situation.

They can give benefits, budgeting and debt advice while also offering support including a referral to your local food bank and they may be able to help with a fuel voucher.

Community hubs, voluntary and community sector organisations and local authorities can also make referrals to food banks. Once your referral has been received by your local food bank, they will be in touch to arrange collection of emergency food parcels.

For a full list of food banks and community food hubs in Lewes district visit:

[lewesdistrictfoodpartnership.org](http://lewesdistrictfoodpartnership.org) and click on Emergency Food Network.

If you would like to support your local food bank or community food hub, the best way to help is by contacting them directly to find out their specific needs.

## Vouchers for parents of young children

Parents in Lewes district with children aged two and under or those expecting a baby are being offered a voucher worth £50 towards the cost of Cheeky Wipes reusable wipes and cloth nappies.

To apply, parents should email:

[customerfirst@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk](mailto:customerfirst@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk) with:

- the subject line 'Cheeky Wipes Voucher'
- their address
- a copy of their MatB1 certificate or Birth Certificate

To find out more about this scheme set up by the council and Cheeky Wipes, visit [cheekywipes.com/lewes-district-nappy-wipes-scheme](http://cheekywipes.com/lewes-district-nappy-wipes-scheme)



“Food prices have rocketed over the past year, putting a huge pressure on household budgets, so if you are in need of support please use the services on this page.”

**Councillor Chris Collier, Cabinet Member for Innovation, Delivery and People**

# Citizens Advice

Citizens Advice provides free, confidential and impartial advice to anyone living, studying or working within Lewes district. It provides information and advice which will help people resolve problems in areas such as:

- Benefits – help with all benefits, and it has a specialist Universal Credit adviser and benefits caseworkers
- Debt – generalist and specialist in-house money adviser to help with your debts
- Work – help with redundancy, unfair dismissal, grievances, flexible working and more
- Consumer – problems with your fuel bills, disputes with tradespeople
- Relationships – divorce, relationship breakdown, powers of attorney
- Housing – homelessness, eviction and tenancy problems
- Cost of living crisis – food bank referrals, emergency fuel vouchers, tailored household support grant advice

For details of a new outreach advice programme, visit [www.lewesdistrictca.org.uk/get-advice](http://www.lewesdistrictca.org.uk/get-advice)

For information and to contact Citizens Advice visit [www.lewesdistrictca.org.uk](http://www.lewesdistrictca.org.uk)

Local freephone Advice line on 0808 278 7892 (Lines are open Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10am-3pm, Thursdays 10am-2pm).

## Opening hours

Prior appointments only – no drop-in service available

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Seaford</b> 37 Church Street BN25 1HG	10am - 3.30pm
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>Wednesday</b> <b>Thursday</b>	<b>Newhaven</b> 15-19 Chapel Street BN9 9PN	10am - 3.30pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Peacehaven</b> Meridian Centre BN10 8BL	10am - 3.30pm
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Lewes</b> Relocating soon to 6 Cliffe High Street	10am - 3.30pm
<b>Last Tuesday of the month</b>	<b>Telscombe Civic Centre</b> 360 South Coast Road, BN10 7ES	10.30am - 12.30pm Drop-in information

Out-of-hours advice options:

Website: [www.lewesdistrictca.org.uk](http://www.lewesdistrictca.org.uk)

Telephone: **0808 278 7892**

Self-help website: [citizensadvice.org.uk](http://citizensadvice.org.uk)

“If you have a problem, it’s important to obtain good quality, independent advice. That’s where Citizens Advice can help, giving you the knowledge and confidence to find your way forward.”

**Councillor Laurence O’Connor, Cabinet Member for Planning and Infrastructure**



# Artwave marks 30th year with record number of exhibitions



Artist studio detail photography by Alun Callender

**Artwave is celebrating its 30th anniversary and this year's festival of creativity is set to be the biggest in its history.**

Running over three weekends from 2nd to 17th September, Artwave will feature artwork from more than 1,000 creatives at over 180 exhibitions across Lewes district including the opportunity to visit artists' private homes as well as more unusual venues such as a windmill, farm and train station.

When it began in 1993, the festival featured the work of 70 artists across 18 events and has steadily grown to become a popular fixture in the region's cultural calendar.

Carole Buchan, who organised the first-ever Artwave, said her aim as Lewes District Council's first arts officer was "to make the arts accessible to all".

She recalled how, in 1999, Rodin's famous sculpture *The Kiss* was exhibited in Lewes.

"Lewes District Council negotiated with the Arts Council to 'borrow' Rodin's *The Kiss* for the town, where it had first been created," said Carole.

"Under the strictest security it was brought from The Tate in London to the Town Hall in the middle of the night. The result was a magnificent exhibition which launched what became known as Lewes Town of

Sculpture and became part of Artwave that year.

"Artwave has picked up momentum year on year with artists both established and new showing work in a variety of venues, including shops, pubs and cafes, and in their own homes right across East Sussex.

"It is now a highlight of the cultural year with around a hundred venues open for three weekends in September, attracting visitors from all over the south."

For more details about 2023 Artwave visit: [www.artwavefestival.org](http://www.artwavefestival.org)



"I am delighted to welcome back Artwave in its special 30th year and the great breadth of artistic talent it showcases.

"The festival has gone from strength to strength over the last three decades and with the biggest ever number of exhibitions, art lovers are in for a real treat this September."

**Councillor Johnny Denis, Cabinet Member for Arts, Culture, and Tourism and Leisure**

# Summer Bank Holiday Refuse and Food Waste Collections

## Normal Collection Day

Monday 28th August  
Tuesday 29th August  
Wednesday 30th August  
Thursday 31st August  
Friday 1st September

## Revised Collection Day

Tuesday 29th August  
Wednesday 30th August  
Thursday 31st August  
Friday 1st September  
Saturday 2nd September

\* If your bin is not collected leave it out for collection the following day.

For recycling collection dates, check your kerbside recycling calendar or visit [lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/waste](https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/waste)

 [lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/district-news](https://www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/district-news)

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