

SPRING 2020 | #DISTRICTNEWS

# DN

MAGAZINE



NEWS FROM ACROSS  
THE LEWES DISTRICT

# Hello

Welcome to the spring  
edition of DN magazine,  
brought to you by  
Lewes District Council

In the winter DN, we highlighted the council's clear ambition to deliver net zero greenhouse gases and full climate resilience by 2030.

In this edition, many of our stories focus on projects being undertaken to achieve this target – from reducing air pollution by encouraging drivers

to turn off engines when parked, to building sustainable homes and cutting the carbon footprint of our existing council homes. We also turn the spotlight on our newly appointed Strategy and Partnership Lead for Sustainability, Kate Richardson, who explains her critical role in driving forward with an extensive programme of climate action.

Alongside this, there is information on making your own home more energy efficient and ideas to help care for the beautiful environment we all enjoy in Lewes district.

We hope you enjoy reading it.

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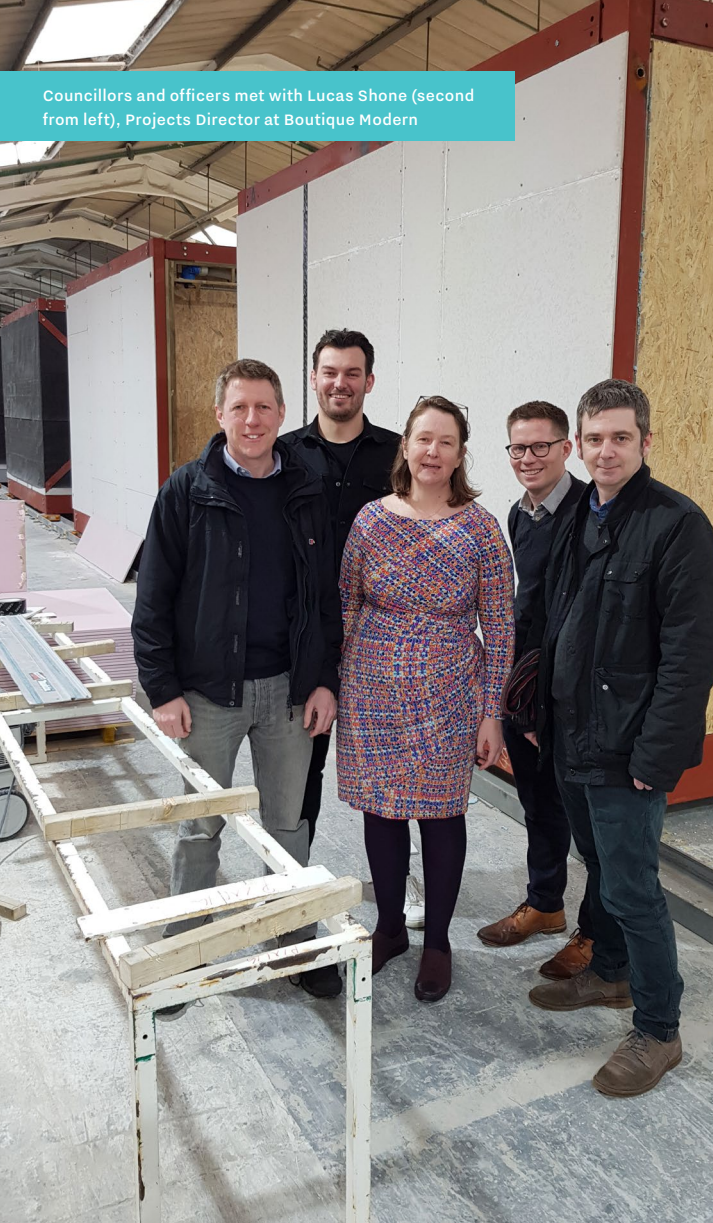
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Councillors and officers met with Lucas Shone (second from left), Projects Director at Boutique Modern



# New Sustainable Homes In Newhaven

**A new development of highly sustainable council homes in Newhaven is nearing completion.**

The 13 modular flats in Fort Road will incorporate a host of eco-friendly and sustainable features, including the latest solar panels that will feed energy into hi-tech batteries, effectively taking the homes 'off-grid' for up to three months of the year.

Councillor William Meyer, Cabinet Member for Housing at Lewes District Council, said:

*"There is a great deal to welcome about these modular homes.*

*"Their sustainability credentials are good, which is fundamental to the Co-operative Alliance's overall strategy of cutting greenhouse gas emissions and achieving full climate resilience in Lewes district by 2030.*

*"Additionally, the pioneering modular technology being used to manufacture them is happening in Newhaven, within a mile of where they will be located."*

The two-bedroom and one-bedroom apartments are being built by local employer Boutique Modern, a specialist manufacturer of modular homes. The firm designs and builds the properties in their local factory (pictured) before moving them to the site for installation.

## Housing Sustainability



**Lewes District Council has set aside £500,000 for pilot projects to improve the sustainability of council homes.**

Work will include understanding the current carbon footprint of council housing, investigating opportunities for renewable heat initiatives, assessing the cost-effectiveness and impact of insulation schemes and upgrading

existing solar water heating systems.

The council is undertaking this work to reduce its carbon footprint as well as improve the lives of residents, given the strong evidence showing that physical and mental health benefits are linked to good quality, well-managed housing.



# Projects Are A Success For Communities



**People across Lewes district are benefitting from an array of projects funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).**

CIL is a charge local authorities can make on new developments in their area to raise money for the improvement of roads, sports, school and medical facilities, and open spaces.

The money is shared between strategic, local and community initiatives.

Telscombe Town Council was awarded £28,212 of CIL to go towards its project to improve playground facilities in Telscombe and East Saltdean, and as a result, youngsters are now enjoying new play equipment and a basketball court.

Newhaven Skatepark and Pumptrack is a popular new facility in Fort Road Recreation Ground, which was part-funded by CIL.

Some £3,000 went towards the refurbishment of Newick Primary School Library, which was recently completed and will provide a resource hub that people living in the village can use free of charge.

Examples of local projects benefitting from CIL include two all-weather table tennis tables at the Salts Recreation Ground in Seaford, new benches and planters in Newhaven High Street and improvements at Beechwood Park in Hamsey encompassing an all-weather multi-use games court, car parking and play equipment.



# Spotlight On —————→

## Kate Richardson Strategy and Partnership Lead for Sustainability



### Tell us about your job:

My role is to develop and progress strategies and policies that will reduce our greenhouse gas emissions in response to the Climate Emergency declaration made by councillors in July 2019.

Essentially I oversee the development of projects that will run across all our areas of work and facilitate and monitor the projects that happen through our wider partnerships with the aim of making the entire district zero carbon and climate resilient by 2030.

### What have been your priorities since starting the job full-time in January?

I have had my first introduction to our wider Sustainability Panel which consists of experts and community groups. I'm also getting to know our councillors and their priorities for the district which I will translate into a deliverable Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy that is due in July.

### What kind of projects will you be working on?

There are so many exciting possibilities to reduce our carbon emissions with solar projects, electric vehicles, hydrogen, community food growing; the list could go on and on. These projects will also achieve other aims such as tackling fuel poverty, improving air quality and community wealth building. The biggest challenge will be keeping track of them all and recording all the benefits!

## Reducing Vehicle Emissions

**Lewes District Council made changes to its recycling rounds in autumn so that collection vehicles drive fewer miles every day and cut emissions.**

This means vehicles will travel around 80,000 fewer miles a year, without any reductions to the recycling service provided.

## Council To Tackle Idling Drivers

With tens of thousands of deaths nationally each year related to air pollution, Neighbourhood First officers are engaging with drivers who leave their engines idling while parked.

Initially, they are targeting motorists in roads surrounding schools at pick-up and drop-off times, politely asking them to switch off and help improve local air quality.

This is part of Lewes District Council's anti-idling campaign launched last year to reduce air pollution.

Councillor Matthew Bird, Cabinet Member for Sustainability, said:

*"We want to raise awareness of the environmental damage that is caused by keeping engines running while the car is stationary. It simply isn't necessary in most cases."*

*"It is estimated that outdoor air pollution was linked to approximately 40,000 early deaths in this country in 2010."*

*"Air pollution is of particular concern for the young, as children have faster breathing rates and their lungs are still developing."*

For more information visit:  
[lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/  
environmental-problems/air-quality-  
and-health/](http://lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/environmental-problems/air-quality-and-health/)





## Lewes Is Fizzing As Festival Returns

**The Sussex Gin & Fizz Festival is set to return to Southover Grange Gardens on Saturday June 6.**

Building on last year's success, there will again be a family-friendly daytime session and an over 18s-only evening party. Both will feature a selection of award-winning local sparkling wines and gins with local artisan food stalls, bars, informative industry talks and fantastic live music throughout.

For the first time, Sussex Gin & Fizz is working with Plastic Free Lewes to make the event completely single-use plastic free.

Keep an eye on [sussexginandfizzfestival.com](https://sussexginandfizzfestival.com) or follow on Instagram @sussexginandfizzfestival to find out about ticket availability and special offers.

## Planning For The District's Future

**The Co-operative Alliance has put targeting climate change and the acute shortage of council homes at the top of the agenda in its first corporate plan.**

The plan, due to be adopted later this year, sets out the council's priorities and initiatives over the next four years.

The Co-operative Alliance took control of the council in July 2019 and moved quickly to accelerate plans to radically cut greenhouse gas emissions and make the district climate resilient by 2030.

Councillor Zoe Nicholson, Leader of Lewes District Council, said:

*"The three main areas of focus for the plan are providing leadership to the district on tackling the climate emergency, building homes that local people can afford to live in and creating a sustainable economy that enables a fairer place to live and work."*



## Recycle Used Batteries

Old batteries can now be safely disposed of at the council's Southover House reception in Lewes.

This includes all household batteries except rechargeable ones, laptop or car batteries.



## Call Of The Sea Cadets

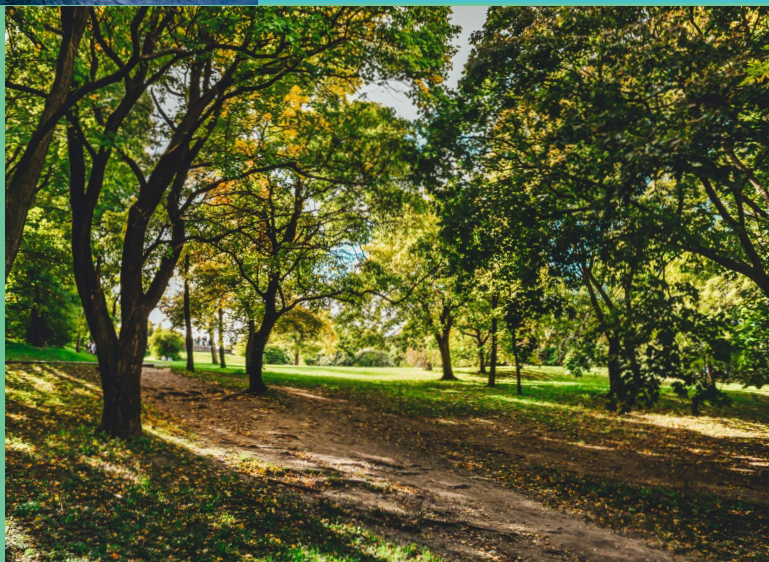
Adult volunteers are needed for Sea Cadets in Seaford and Newhaven. Help is always welcome and a background in the navy or water sports is not necessary.

For more information visit:  
[sea-cadets.org/newhavenseaford](http://sea-cadets.org/newhavenseaford)  
 Phone: 01273 655442  
 Or email: [admin@tsdefiance.co.uk](mailto:admin@tsdefiance.co.uk)

## idverde

The council's ground maintenance contractor Burleys has been taken over by the UK's biggest landscaping company idverde.

The new name and logo will soon appear on the team's vehicles and uniforms as they work on green spaces across the district.





# Garden Waste Collections

Sign up for your garden waste collection at £70 for a year's service. Almost 2,000 tonnes of garden waste was collected by the council in 2019, all of which was composted locally. For details visit: [lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/GardenWaste](http://lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/GardenWaste)



## Lottery

The Lewes District Local Lottery is going from strength to strength, with 299 weekly players and 34 good causes signed up to benefit from the scheme. With a weekly jackpot of £25,000, tickets cost just £1 with 60p going towards local good causes. There are also prizes of £2,000, £250, £25 plus free tickets. Visit: [leweslocallottery.co.uk](http://leweslocallottery.co.uk)

## Caring For Your Environment

Help is at hand for residents considering a community tidy up. The council can provide equipment, safety advice and clear away rubbish collected. Get in touch at: [recycle@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk](mailto:recycle@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk)



# New Operator For Enterprise Centre



**Let's Do Business Group has taken over the management of the Newhaven Enterprise Centre.**

The centre, owned by Lewes District Council, is located on Denton Island and provides a mixture of 60 furnished incubator units for start-ups, workshops, larger units aimed at businesses with fewer than 15 people, and flexible co-working space.

It opened in 2007 and has proved to be a great success for

the Newhaven economy, with occupancy currently around 92%.

Let's Do Business is a social enterprise which already runs a similar centre in Essex. It also manages the Locate East Sussex service which is a county-wide inward investment company assisting businesses moving into,

or within, East Sussex to find appropriate premises.

Contact the centre on 01273 615250 for more information on the range of business spaces and meeting rooms available to help your business.

Contact the centre on 01273 615250 for more information on the range of business spaces and meeting rooms available to help your business, or visit [newhavenenterprisecentre.co.uk](http://newhavenenterprisecentre.co.uk)

# New Businesses Locate to Enterprise Zone

**Eastside business park in Newhaven is getting ready to welcome four new firms ahead of the development's completion this spring.**

Hello Flamingo, an award-winning prop manufacturer, Mamoosh, a local artisanal bakery, Marc Fish, an internationally acclaimed furniture maker, and children's fashion retailer, Junior Edition,

will be moving into the brand new warehouse once completed.

Part of Newhaven Enterprise Zone, Eastside business park is already home to Surrey NanoSystems, creator of the world's blackest coating which is used in aerospace manufacturing, and ValetPRO, one of the UK's leading car detailing brands.



# Yoga Studio Is Welcomed

The Deputy Leader of Lewes District Council has welcomed a new yoga studio to Newhaven Square and is excited that *“a new generation of independent enterprises can thrive in the town”*.

Councillor James MacCleary, who is also Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Prosperity, was speaking at the opening of The Practice Space, a community-focused venue where people can enjoy yoga classes.

He said: *“Living in Newhaven with my two young children I’m really keen to see more life and activity in our town.*

*“Life on the high street for retailers is exceptionally tough and that’s no different wherever you live and work. However, there is no doubt that in Newhaven a new generation of independent enterprises can thrive in the town.*



At the opening of The Practice Space

*“Big flagship stores have their place but most of the space in Newhaven Square has now been let by the council, showing that we know what works for local residents. The Practice Space is a really exciting addition to the current offer and I’m particularly pleased that the community is being encouraged to get involved in classes there.”*

Newhaven town centre is part of the Enterprise Zone. Businesses in the Enterprise Zone enjoy a range

of benefits, including significant exemptions from business rates.

Councillor MacCleary added:

*“The council has introduced flexible leases on its properties and is actively seeking out businesses to invest in our town centre. The future of Newhaven town centre and the wider Enterprise Zone is very bright indeed.”*

For more information visit [www.thepracticespace.co.uk](http://www.thepracticespace.co.uk)

# Bright Prospects For Town Centre



**The council continues to progress with exciting plans for Newhaven through the Future High Streets Fund as its application nears completion.**

The Government set up the £675 million fund to transform high streets and ensure future growth.

Lewes District Council is competing against other local authorities across

the country to secure this funding, which would enable significant investment in the town centre to repurpose existing buildings and generate jobs over the next four years.

The application will be submitted by the end of April and a funding decision will be made by autumn.



## Housing Advice

Lewes District Council can provide a range of advice and support if you are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. This includes advice on:

- Budgeting and benefits
- Maintaining your mortgage payments
- Finding and securing a privately let property
- Accessing services to help you maintain your tenancy

You can complete an online self-assessment to find out what support options may be available to you at:

[homesfirstlettings.co.uk](http://homesfirstlettings.co.uk) or find out more about our housing services online at [lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/housing](http://lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/housing)

You can also speak with one of our Customer Advisors Monday to Friday at our office at Southover House, Lewes between 8:30am and 5pm, or at Saxon House, Newhaven between 10am and 2pm.

Appointments in Peacehaven Meridian Centre on Mondays and Seaford Citizens Advice Bureau on Thursdays are available on request.

## Your Energy Sussex

Your Energy Sussex, the council-supported local energy supplier, works hard to keep its customers on its cheapest available fixed energy tariff.

If you've never switched or haven't done so in a while, get a free quote at [yourenergysussex.org.uk](http://yourenergysussex.org.uk) or call 0800 952 0001.

Your Energy Sussex is run on a not-for-profit basis and uses the surplus it generates to help local people who are struggling to pay their energy bills.

Customers also get 100% renewable electricity.

## Energy Efficiency

Warmer Sussex gives impartial advice on making your home more energy efficient, helping with improvements and an assurance that work meets quality standards.

For £75, Warmer Sussex will survey your home and provide a detailed Whole House Plan – an impartial assessment with advice on improvements. This service includes vetting local tradespeople and arranging quotes.

For information visit [warmersussex.co.uk](http://warmersussex.co.uk) or call 0330 223 5755.

## Contents Insurance

Homes First have teamed up with Aviva, the UK's largest insurer, to provide a Home Contents Insurance scheme for Lewes District Council tenants and leaseholders.

The package offers a policy with exclusive rates and a range of optional extras, including cover for accidental damage.

For more information visit:

[lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/tenant-insurance](http://lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/tenant-insurance)

## Paying Your Bills

**Direct Debits** – These can be set up on the council website, then payments will be made automatically for the rest of the year. Visit: [lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/council-tax](http://lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/council-tax)

**Online payment** – This takes about five minutes and will need to be repeated each time you pay. Visit: [lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/council-tax](http://lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/council-tax)

**Automated phone line** – This takes a few minutes and will need to be repeated each time you pay. To use this option call 0800 023 7080.



Claire Sumners with supporters Rodney Reed chairman of Seaford Martello Rotary (left) and Stephen Newbury of Newbury Tully Estate Agents

## New Water Source At Seaford Head Golf Club

**A borehole has been drilled at Seaford Head Golf Course to create a self-sufficient water source for the course.**

The 45-metre borehole, commissioned by Seaford Town Council and Impact Seaford, will feed into the irrigation system and may also be used to water the living roof at The View bar, restaurant and professional golfers' shop.

A Seaford Town Council spokesperson said: *"Currently, it costs around £6,000 to £8,000 per year to pay the water bill at the golf course, all paid for by course users.*

*"The introduction of a borehole is an exciting and environmentally friendly project which could help us become water self-sufficient at the golf course and greatly reduce costs. Using treated water is not environmentally friendly either, as it takes a lot of energy to treat water and pump it to the golf course. This energy demand will all be reduced significantly."*

Following a year of successful watering on the golf course, plans will be explored to also use the borehole water at The View if tests show it is of treatable drinking quality.

This is among a number of Seaford projects that are actively being progressed by Impact Seaford, a local partnership consisting of Seaford Town Council, Lewes District Council and a range of people and business interests from the community. Impact Seaford supports local environmental and climate emergency projects.

## Plastic Free Seaford

**Seaford has been officially awarded 'Plastic Free Community' status – the 93rd location in the UK to receive the accolade.**

The town has been given the status by marine conservation charity, Surfers Against Sewage (SAS), in recognition of work carried out to reduce the impact of single-use plastic on the environment.

Local resident Claire Sumners, who launched the Plastic Free Seaford campaign in March 2018, said:

*"Whilst I know a community can never be totally single-use plastic free, I hope this campaign evokes a change in people's attitudes towards convenience and single use."*

Visit [plasticfreeseaford.co.uk](http://plasticfreeseaford.co.uk)

## Sponsor A Tree

**People are invited to sponsor a tree in a public place through a Lewes District Council scheme.**

Planting new trees is a great way to help off-set carbon emissions as well as improving the environment.

Find out more at  
[lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/sponsor-a-tree](http://lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/sponsor-a-tree)





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## Helping Toads Cross The Road

During spring, amphibians such as toads, newts and frogs emerge from hibernation in pursuit of suitable ponds and bodies of water for spawning, often having to cross man-made obstacles and hazards along the way.

Sadly death on the roads, along with the loss of breeding ponds and terrestrial habitat, is having a significant impact on the UK toad population. It's estimated that a staggering 20 tonnes of toads are run over each year by unaware road users.

Help is at hand for some of the moving armies, with Toad Patrollers emerging at dusk to attend known migratory routes that cross roads and assist these declining animals safely across.

If you know of a toad crossing or want to help with a local patrol, visit [froglife.org](http://froglife.org) and search for toad map.

## Dates For Your Diary

### Egrets Way and Signal Box Launch

Sunday March 22: 2-5pm

Join us at Lewes Railway Land to celebrate with an afternoon of family activities and nature watching. Free, all are welcome.

### Not quite the Dawn Chorus, Newhaven

Saturday May 2: 7.30-9.30am

Experience the spring birdsong at Castle Hill and let the leaders help you identify the birds you can hear.

Free event but please book by emailing: [rangers@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk](mailto:rangers@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk)

### Lewes Railway Land nature-themed guided walks

From April 5 on every first Sunday of the month from 3pm.

For more information visit:

[railwaylandproject.org/current-events](http://railwaylandproject.org/current-events)

## Upcoming Lewes District Council Public Meetings:

These scheduled Lewes District Council meetings for spring 2020 are open to the public:

Cabinet <sup>4</sup>	26 March	5:00pm
Scrutiny Committee <sup>4</sup>	19 March	2:00pm
Planning Applications Committee <sup>1</sup>	11 March	5:00pm
Audit and Standards Committee <sup>2</sup>	17 March	10:00am
Planning Applications Committee <sup>1</sup>	1 April	5:00pm
Planning Applications Committee <sup>1</sup>	22 April	5:00pm
Annual Full Council <sup>1</sup>	18 May	6:00pm
Planning Applications Committee <sup>1</sup>	20 May	5:00pm

### Venues:

1. Council Chamber, County Hall, St. Anne's Crescent, Lewes
2. Ditchling Room, Southover House, Lewes
3. Telscombe Room, Southover House, Lewes
4. Ditchling & Telscombe Rooms, Southover House, Lewes

For further information and to confirm meetings times, dates and locations, please contact Committee Services at:

[committees@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk](mailto:committees@lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk) or call 01273 471600.

Information is correct at time of going to press.



# Easter Holiday Waste Collections

No refuse or food waste collections on bank holidays Friday 10 April or Monday 13 April. Please note that some collections are a day early in the week of Good Friday.

Please put refuse and food waste out at the edge of your property by 6am on the advertised day of collection below (unless you have an assisted collection).

If your bin is not collected on the advertised day of collection, leave it out for collection the following day.

<u>Normal Collection Day</u>		<u>Revised Collection Day</u>	
Monday	<b>06 April</b>	Monday	<b>06 April</b>
Tuesday	<b>07 April</b>	Monday	<b>06 April</b>
Wednesday	<b>08 April</b>	Tuesday	<b>07 April</b>
Thursday	<b>09 April</b>	Wednesday	<b>08 April</b>
Friday	<b>10 April</b>	Thursday	<b>09 April</b>
Monday	<b>13 April</b>	Tuesday	<b>14 April</b>
Tuesday	<b>14 April</b>	Wednesday	<b>15 April</b>
Wednesday	<b>15 April</b>	Thursday	<b>16 April</b>
Thursday	<b>16 April</b>	Friday	<b>17 April</b>
Friday	<b>17 April</b>	Saturday	<b>18 April</b>

Normal collections will resume from Monday 20 April.

For Easter recycling collection dates, please refer to your recycling collection calendar. If you need a new one, you can download it from: [lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk](http://lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk)

If you are signed up for garden waste collections you will soon receive your new garden waste collection calendar, showing your Easter collection dates. To find out more, or to sign up for garden waste collections, visit: [lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/GardenWaste](http://lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/GardenWaste)

