

# Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1870

## Congratulations on a magnificent finale

Congratulations to the players, management and fans of Norwich City for a fantastic finale to the home season – and the securing of Premier League football for next season.



After the jitters and scares of midwinter – when doom-mongers had the Canaries back in the Championship after a slump in form – how good it was to see the tensions vanish with a thumping defeat of West Bromwich Albion.

Soon, after the last match against Manchester City, there will be a short period of rest and reflection – and then the 2013/14 campaign, which kicks off in August, will begin in earnest.

For now, it seems like a short period of celebration is in order – not least for the fans who will be seeing the best teams in the land at Carrow Road next season.

Norwich supporters fans have been incredible all season – but particularly in the last few weeks.

They have been an invaluable 12th man/woman in two home wins out three – and we at The EDP have been proud to play our part with the #YellArmy campaign – and helping to stoke up the atmosphere in the ground with our noisy clap-bangers, used so well by Canary legend Delia Smith!

This Premier League survival is so important to the region – experts judging that is part of a yearly £100 million boost to the region – never mind what it does to the coffers at Carrow Road.

Then there are the hidden benefits – the feel-good factor being an important one. How good do staff in many offices up and down Norfolk, north Suffolk and east Cambridgeshire feel today?

Meanwhile, with the Norwich City shirts being seen across the globe via TV, and Norwich being a place on the map for an extended period – it's an added attraction when it comes to recruiting top people to great jobs.

What a satisfying moment this is for manager Chris Hughton – who would be at the top of the league if there were a competition for soccer's top-flight good guys.

Modestly, he has guided the Canaries to safety – something not yet grabbed by former manager Paul Lambert at Aston Villa.

Now the task will be to build a long-term Premier League dynasty at Carrow Road – and that work is in train already.

Well done Canaries one and all – a terrific day for club and region.

## Is it fair and is it wise?

At first sight it is difficult to see how imposing steep cash fines on our under-the-cosh ambulance service is going to solve apparently intractable problems.

Under new contracts the East of England Ambulance Service will have to pay the Department of Health £200 whenever a patient is kept waiting longer than 30 minutes for admission to A&E – with a bumper £1,000 fine for a wait of more than an hour.

That might be fair if the reason for those delays was entirely the fault of the ambulance service. But we know that, particularly at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, pressure on the A&E department and bed blocking also play significant roles.

We need an assurance that these new contracts will not make a bad situation worse – and to know where this penalty money will be spent.

## READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ John Humphries captured this stunning portrait of a barn owl sitting in tree – poised before the daily hunt in Lenwade.

## We've all forgotten our weskets from our waistcoats

Peter  
Trudgill



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Education didn't become compulsory in England until 1880, and then only for 5-10 year-olds. Authors like Arnold Bennett and H. G. Wells didn't start writing for general mass consumption until about 1900, because it was only then that there were enough people who could read for pleasure. And we didn't get to a situation where nearly all adults could read until well into the 20th century.

It's interesting that this widespread literacy then began having an effect on the English language itself. It wasn't a very major effect, but from the 1920s onwards it did start having an influence on the way people pronounced certain words. There began to be a rise in what linguists call "spelling pronunciations". Because of the hostile attitude in this country to local ways of speaking, people had been made to feel uneasy about their own natural speech. So if you didn't feel entirely sure about how you "ought" to pronounce a



■ A man wearing a wesket – or as we would call it now – a waistcoat.

particular word, you might change your natural pronunciation to one which seemed more like the spelling, to be on the safe side. Not with very common words – no one started pronouncing the 'g' in 'night'. But other words were changed,

first by people who were particularly linguistically insecure, and then gradually by everybody else. In 1920, nobody pronounced 'handkerchief' like we do today. Everyone used to say "hankercha". No one used to pronounce 'waistcoat' as 'waist-coat'. The normal pronunciation was 'wesket'. And 'forehead' was not 'fore-head' but 'forrid'.

Americans, because of their greater insecurity – after all, a majority of them descend from people who weren't English-speakers – are even worse at this than we are. They pronounce the 'l' in 'salmon'. And Irish people say 'Anthony' with a 'th' sound instead of a 't'.

But here in East Anglia we are not immune to spelling pronunciations. Lots of people now say 'Low-ess-toft' when the real pronunciation is 'Lowst'ff'; 'Norritch' for Norwich instead of 'Norridge'. And 'Ail-sh'm' for Aylsham when it should be 'Elsh'm' – which is what I've always said. But I must confess that I'm wrong too. The proper pronunciation is 'Elss'm'. The original Old English name was 'Ægel's ham', where Ægel was a man's name, and 'ham' was the same as the modern word 'home', and meant 'homestead'. So the s and the h were in different words and were not pronounced 'sh'. The same is true of North Walsham. My Granny always called it 'Wals'm'. She was right.

### WORDS FOR LIFE

Even when you're old, I'll take care of you.  
Even when your hair turns grey, I'll support you.  
Isaiah 46:4

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