

# Eastern Daily Press

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SINCE 1870

## End this poisonous saga now and rip up incinerator contract

Today is a red letter day for Norfolk.

It's a date which surely must go down as the day the plug is finally pulled on an issue which has torn the county apart.

Councillors hold the fate of the incinerator proposed for Saddlebow, King's Lynn in their hands.

As we said last year, we think it's a simple decision to make – bin the burner.

It is time to rip up this contract and start again. That will come at a cost – some £35m to be precise – and it's a high price.

But it is a price worth paying to bring this poisonous saga to an end.

This farce, which could so easily have been avoided had earlier lessons been learned, has set council against council, pitted councillor against councillor and seen the views of the public ignored.

The reputation of key parts of local democracy has been left in tatters.

Our appeal to the members of the county council requires just three further words – end this now – so NORFOLK CAN MOVE ON!

## We hope gamble pays off

Ditching a manager so close to the end of the season is a major gamble by Norwich City.

And let's hope it pays off and sees the Canaries retain their top-flight status when the reckoning is done in May.

Delia Smith, chief executive David McNally and their colleagues have anguished long and hard about the future of manager Chris Hughton, who they like enormously.

But recent lack-lustre performances at Swansea and at home to relegation rivals West Brom on Saturday sealed his fate. In the cruel world of professional football there is little time for sentiment and the crucial match against Fulham looms on Saturday.

That is a real six pointer with Fulham resurgent after a great win at Aston Villa.

The Norwich board is pinning hopes on change in the form of caretaker boss Neil Adams, to whom we send very best wishes.

Let's all get behind the Canaries for Saturday and for that incredibly tough four-game run in.

Neighbours Ipswich have been out of the top flight for more than 12 years now – and we don't want the Canaries to sink into the Championship – one of the hardest of leagues to move up from anywhere in the world.

## Such a steadfast steed

A mighty servant of the police force has retired after a 15-year career which has seen him deal with football crowds, the powder-keg of English Defence League marches and the violence of the Bradford Riots.

After all that, few would dispute that Wilson the horse deserves all the accolades showered on him, and he has certainly earned a long and peaceful retirement now he's back home in Norfolk.

Because this equine crime-fighter embodies the qualities we would hope for from all our officers – loyal, reliable and steadfast in the face of danger.

## READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

# iwitness24



■ Terry Aspittle sent in this photograph of Cley Marshes. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit [www.iwitness24.co.uk](http://www.iwitness24.co.uk)

## Remember your vowels... that's a, e, i, o, u and schwa

Peter  
Trudgill



email: [newsdesk@archant.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk@archant.co.uk)

When I first went to school, we were taught that English has five vowels, a, e, i, o, u. This wasn't very helpful – even if the teacher was just referring to letters, she was forgetting about the y in words like very, tryst, and rhythm. But as far as vowel sounds themselves are concerned, English has many more than five. One of the difficulties of English spelling is caused by the fact that we try to use these six letters to represent three times that number of sounds.

In my Norfolk accent I have 19 vowels: the sounds in bid, bed, bad, put, but, pot, bee, bay, buy, boy, lewd, load, low, loud, beard, bird, bard, board. This isn't the same number that people from outside Norfolk would have – we pronounce beard and bared the same, other people don't. An old-fashioned posh BBC accent has 21 vowels; many Scots have only 14.

Even in Norfolk there are differences. I pronounce are and hour the same; other people pronounce them differently and have an extra vowel in words like hour and flour.

Speakers who pronounce daze (dearz)



■ When Canaries fans are singing On The Ball City, they are using the schwa.

and days differently have an additional vowel. If you're good at arithmetic, you'll have noticed that I said I have 19 vowels – but my list only has 18. The 19th vowel, the one I didn't give an example for, is the most frequent and most important vowel in our language. There's no obvious single way of writing it. Take "vanilla". This word has three syllables. The middle one has the same vowel as "bid". But what about the first and last syllables? This is my 19th vowel. We can perhaps write it "uh" – "vuh-nill-uh". Linguists call it schwa, from a letter in the Hebrew alphabet.

You can see how frequent it is if you

take a perfectly ordinary phrase like "On the ball City – never mind the danger". This has 11 vowels, but four of them are "uh": the second vowel in never and danger, and the vowels in the two thos.

In Norfolk we use this vowel even more frequently than other people. We pronounce words like David and naked as Dayvuhd and naykuhd rather than Dayvidd and naykidd. Older dialect speakers say very as "verruh" and money as "munnuh". We pronounce Lowestoft as Lowss-tuhff, not Lowess-tofft. "Have you got any money?" has three schwas: "Ha' yuh got 'nuh munnuh?". We are world champions at schwa.

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Blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence.  
Jeremiah 17:7

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## A proper clipping

**TONY HARRIS,**  
 Laurel Drive, Brundall.

Sidney Denney's letter (EDP, April 3) about the phrase "given a fourpenny one" invoked childhood memories. Growing up in the 1950s, I was a bit of a tearaway and often received a fourpenny one from my dad – a clip round the ear!

## What's an Aneaner?

**TERRY THACKER,**  
 Holt Road, Briston.

Peter Trudgill's article (EDP, March 31) with its story of the explanation of "Mack and tosh" has finally explained the cause of my difficulties as a youngster when suffering, as I now know, from linguistic re-analysis; for which I must give him hearty thanks.

The local newspaper where I grew up in Derbyshire was (as still is) the excellent Ripley & Heanor News. I did not know this as all adults called the paper 'T' Ripley Aneaner. As a youngster, I assumed that Aneaner was part of that class of adult words (like Chronicle, Advertiser, Examiner etc) which pertained to newspaper titles. Thus I expected one day to read perhaps the Derby Aneaner or even the Daily Aneaner, and was puzzled when I never did.



■ Peter Trudgill's column about the use of language has sparked this letter from a reader.

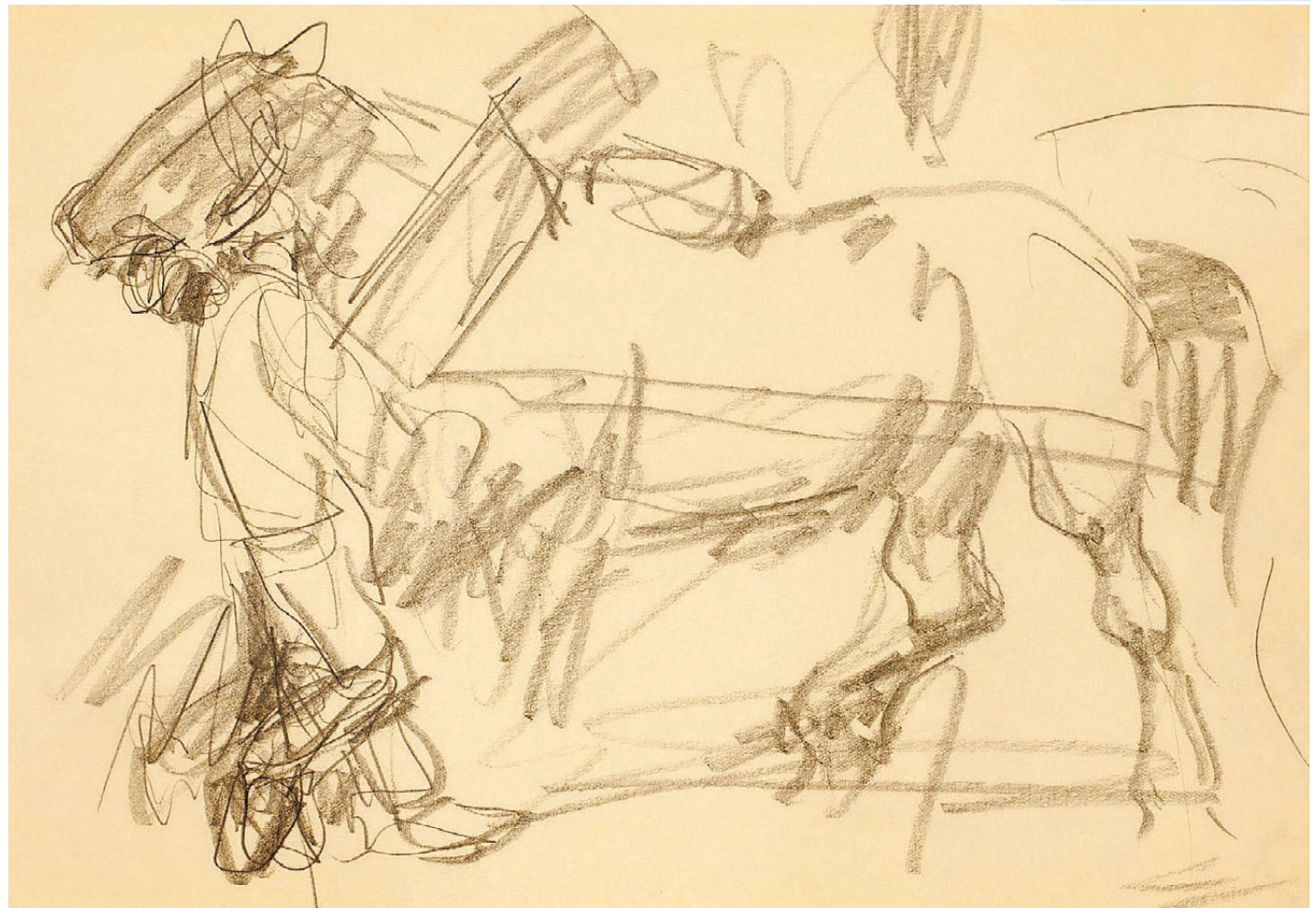
I suppose it took longer for the penny to drop since Derbyshire dialect calls the town 'Aynor' – it's near 'Acewud', the birthplace of D H Lawrence. Maybe I should have kept to reading comics – there's less scope for confusion among the pictures in the Beano.

.....  
 ■ Peter Trudgill - Flip back a page if you missed his column today!

## A vital role

**ASHLEY FORD,**  
 c/o WWKD Recruit & Training,  
 Church Street, Dereham.

Following the comment, in your April 1 edition, from the TaxPayers' Alliance on the "waste of money" that is represented by "non-front-line roles" in the NHS, I would like to respond that, while I am uncertain what benefit an "art curator" could have for patients, equality and diversity do have an impact on patient experiences, and it is not only a legal requirement, but also an important part of providing good standards of care, that staff are suitably trained in, and sympathetic to the goals of, equality and diversity awareness and issues. For individuals in "minority" groups – ethnic minorities, individuals with mental health issues, or conditions such as autism, and the LGBT community, for example – fear of unsympathetic staff, poor care, and a humiliating experience frequently leads to medical care not being sought in a timely manner, which then leads to further costs for the taxpayer down the line, should the initial condition worsen, or complications arise from



Pages from the sketchbooks of Harry Becker, the great draughtsman and print-maker who depicted the toil of Suffolk farm labourers from the late Victorian era until his death in 1928, are on show and on sale at Halesworth's Little Gallery all this month. Becker lived latterly at Wenhaston and is buried in Blythburgh churchyard with its fine views over the Blyth Valley where he and his subjects had worked.

lack of prompt treatment. However, this training could be offered in a far more cost-effective manner; rather than the 165 staff (and attendant salaries and expenses) currently employed to deliver this provision, NHS trusts, and individual hospitals, could, instead, sign up for a comprehensive, specialist "retained consultancy"-style service, for a fraction of the costs of employing individuals across multiple sites.

## It's their choice

**LUCY MURPHY,**  
 Dover Street, Norwich.

If your columnist Steve Downes really feels it is natural for men to like "history magazines... and worthy biographies" while women prefer "dangly, jangly hearts and other trinkets" (Opinion, March 29), then why does he feel so threatened by the idea of removing boys and girls' sections from stores? Surely if, as he argues, boys will be boys and girls will be girls, allowing children to make their own choice as to whether they prefer pirates or princesses isn't going to make any difference.

## A Norfolk giant?

**RICHARD SHEPHERD,**  
 The Street, Barney, Fakenham.

The EDP's "Plague victims had moved to capital just like people

today" (March 31) reminded me of a story I heard in the 1950s, and which came from a very sound source. The late Billy Scott who lived in West End Street, (off Nelson Street) was a dear old friend and fellow pigeon fancier of my father and told him a fascinating story which related to the hungry thirties – hard times for them both.

Billy was in a gang of council workers charged with road works near St Saviour's Church in Magdalen Street, Norwich, when his mates started to dig up many bones from what appeared to be a mass grave. Among these was an enormous human skull which Billy (a small man, incidentally) said – by way of comparison – would have filled the seat of his armchair. He was at pains to say that the skull was not a relic of the condition known as "water on the brain" (hydroencephalitis?) since the jaw was in perfect proportion to the massive crania. The foreman of their gang was alerted, and he, realising that he would have to lay off his staff if the Castle Museum was notified, gave the order for the remains be returned to their resting place, covered, and work resumed. There is, of course, a pathological condition called gigantism, a hormonal condition which produces people of great height, but Norfolk has legendary giants free from any malady. In his Norfolk Families, the historian Walter Rye cites specifics

about the Hales family of Somerton, Norfolk. He gives the height of the celebrated Robert Hales as 7ft 8in, weight 34st 4lb, and mentions a sister, Mary, who was 7ft 2in. They had an ancestor who was a jailer at the Tower of London who was taller than either of them!

In Chapter 64 of his Wild Wales, George Borrow, clearly a Hales fan, mentions Norfolk's Robert Hales to his Welsh guide, John Jones, adding "...who has a sister seven inches shorter than himself, who is yet seven inches taller than any man in the county when her brother is out of it". Elsewhere Borrow described Hales as having "...a face nigh on as noble as Shakespeare's". Bearing in mind the sophistication of latter-day reconstructions of skeletal artefacts, it is extremely sad for me that no such process can ever take place on that awesome skull which appeared for a short while on a day in the thirties having been buried, probably during a plague, many centuries earlier.

## Money won't help

**N MACPHERSON,**  
 Church Road, Blofield.

Re Operation Turtle Dove (EDP, April 1), to attempt to walk 300 miles in aid of a favourite cause is commendable, but since scientific research has shown the decline of the turtle dove is due to predation and loss of habitat, no amount of

## WHEN YOU WRITE

■ Give a full postal address and daytime phone number, please, even on emails.

■ Please keep letters short and write on one side of the paper only.

■ The editor welcomes contributions but reserves the right to amend and edit as necessary.

■ We regret we cannot acknowledge receipt nor guarantee publication of the many letters we receive.

■ All letters are considered and our aim is to carry a cross section of views.

■ Material accepted for publication in the EDP may also be published on the internet.



cash will solve the problem. I am reminded of a recent appeal for money to save the song thrush, the demise of which is also due to predation. Until this overriding factor is addressed I fear that well-meaning donors to these causes will be disappointed.