

# Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1870

## Why we must fight to protect the region's vulnerable

They are the most vulnerable people in our region. But these are not strangers to you. These are your family, your friends, your neighbours.

And serious questions have to be asked over whether the elderly, those with mental health problems and those with social care needs are getting the help and support they should.

Our concerns about the state of the mental health service in Norfolk and Suffolk have led to us asking many such questions already, through our Fighting for the Vulnerable campaign.

The tragic death of Matthew Dunham, a young man in the care of the Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust, led the county's coroner to criticise the care provided by the trust as being "fragmented and uncoordinated".

And the recent case of Oliver Lang, a young man who was told he could go home after spending time being sectioned – only to spend months more in an institution because of red tape – does little to instil confidence.

The EDP highlighted his case which led to his release on New Year's Eve. Our pledge today is that we will continue to fight for the vulnerable.

But we are going further. We are extending our campaign beyond mental health to everything from social care, loneliness and homelessness. We will highlight problems and hail successes.

And we are asking you, our readers, to help. Sign up to our pledge and help the vulnerable. It might just be committing to visit an elderly neighbour every now and then, but it can, and will, make a difference.

## Boys did the right thing

When 12-year-old Ethan Jones and three friends saw a woman collapsed at the side of a Norwich road, they did not hesitate to help.

Ethan called the ambulance and urged Hayley Sorenti, who was suffering a bad asthma attack, to: 'Breathe, please Miss'.

Some people might have walked by, hesitating to get involved or suspecting some underhand motive.

But not only did these youngsters stop, they were also ready to act. It shows the value of learning first aid, which Ethan and two of his friends had done at Scouts. It kept them calm and helped them comfort Mrs Sorenti as they waited for the ambulance to arrive. First aid is a skill you are never too young to learn.

## A welcome opening

Port chaplain Peter Paine's fight to create Great Yarmouth's new Seafarers' Centre is almost over, with its opening due later this year.

Around 15,000 seafarers from across the world call into Yarmouth every year, and the facilities which will be provided at the seafarers' centre are a vital part of life in what is still a busy port.

It has been a decade-long battle, and one which shows an impressive combination of determination and community spirit to make sure Yarmouth is known for its welcome to sailors across the world.

## READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

# iwitness24



■ Terry Newman took this photo on Winterton beach. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit [www.iwitness24.co.uk](http://www.iwitness24.co.uk)

## There's ple'y to like about the way we pronounce words



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A correspondent has written to the EDP asserting that the Norwich pronunciation of the word twenty is ugly.

I would like to assert that the Norwich pronunciation of the word twenty isn't ugly, but I don't think I'll bother. I mean – where would that get us? Beauty is in the eye – or ear – of the beholder. One person's ugly is another person's not-ugly.

But it's really interesting to wonder where that "ugly" judgement comes from. The correspondent obviously has some problem with the vowels and consonants which make up our local rendering of this word, but I can't for the life of me think what it is.

In words like plenty and twenty, 320 million American and Canadian speakers typically use a pronunciation which merges the t with the n, to give something like "plenny, twenny".

They do the same thing with words like hunter and winter = "hunner, winner."

In Norwich, the process goes the other way, so that the n is merged with t, giving "pletty, twetty". The phrase "didn't he" is subject to the same procedure: He played very well, ditty?.

Then, in the Norwich accent, after the n and the t have been merged as t, another



■ The Norwich pronunciation has been described as ugly by some, but not by Peter Trudgill.

pronunciation rule clicks in: a t between two vowels is pronounced as a glottal stop, as in better, city = "be'er, ci'y". So this rule gives us "ple'y, twe'y, di'y".

These pronunciations are the result of complex, sophisticated, rule-governed articulation habits. But what is it about the pronunciation that could possibly be ugly?

The way Norwich people say it, twenty rhymes with jetty.

Is jetty an ugly word? Or petty? Surely not.

Perhaps it's the glottal stop which is aesthetically displeasing? But that is rather difficult to comprehend, too. The

vast majority of people in this country, not least EDP readers, use glottal stops in their everyday pronunciation of English. I wouldn't mind betting that you have a glottal stop before the l in the words atlas and Scotland.

If you listen carefully, you'll hear that you use one before the k in "weeks" as well. Does that sound ugly? Well, as I say, I don't find it so.

But if you do, well, you do.

I think we might be the only people in the English-speaking world to pronounce twenty as "twe'y".

If that is the case, I'm rather proud of it. Pity not everyone is.

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For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.  
Psalm 91:11

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