

Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1870

Conference is chance for Labour to show Opposition credentials

Labour members are licking their wounds after the most brutal of election defeats.

While Norwich South returned to the reds, the party failed to make the gains they expected in Norwich North, Great Yarmouth and Waveney.

Many did not see it coming and they have spent the summer asking themselves why.

The conclusion from many activists was that the party needed to shift to the left and this has manifested itself in the stunning leadership landslide for Jeremy Corbyn.

His unpolished and apparently straight talking manner struck a chord with many, including those disillusioned by politics in recent years.

Few would have predicted the numbers who would have been inspired to join the Labour Party since early May, and then again in September after his victory.

Of course, there are those from around the region, as around the country, who do not believe Jeremy Corbyn is the person to lead the Labour Party into government. Some have travelled to Brighton, others have stayed away.

For now those voices have largely been drowned out, as many activists who may not have backed Corbyn are willing to see if the surge in party support translates into electoral success.

The first big test will be next year's local council elections in Great Yarmouth and Norwich. If Labour can't win there, the voices of dissent will become louder.

For now though, it is vital for democracy that we have a strong opposition. All governments need to be constantly challenged and this must be Corbyn, and his shadow cabinet's primary task.

A great family legacy

The Jarrolds are one of Norfolk's best known families, and the trust set up by John Jarrold in 1965 has meant that more than 1,200 organisations have benefited from a share of an amazing £3.7m over the past 50 years.

It is an incredible gift from a family that is deeply rooted in the city and county, with an illustrious history in retail, publishing and more.

As the John Jarrold Trust celebrates its 50th year, we pay tribute to the wonderful contribution the trust has made to organisations large and small during the last five decades. It is a great legacy left by Mr Jarrold and a fine example of great community spirit.

It is great to see his family continue his vision and we hope the trust will continue to carry on its good work for a long time to come.

Lots of love for dragons

The queues to catch a final glimpse of the dragons prove what a roaring success the GoGoDragons! trail has been.

The beasts became a magnet for 1m people ever since they landed on the city's streets in June. And it is fair to say we have taken them to our hearts.

Brought to Norwich by children's charity Break and Wild in Art, with media partners the EDP and its sister paper the Evening News, business and tourism chiefs hailed the event a great boost for the city. You only have until Wednesday to see the beauties before they fly away – so don't miss out.

READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ A shiny black dung beetle's colour is in sharp contrast with the foliage on which it rests in this photograph taken by Peter Dent at Hevingham. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit www.iwitness24.co.uk

I'm sorry readers but I am right about the word 'none'

Peter
Trudgill



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Some discontent has surfaced in the EDP about my statement that the word none can be plural. I wrote that it's perfectly grammatical and totally correct to say "None of them are very interesting". Some readers responded that they thought this was wrong.

I don't doubt they believe this, but I'm a 100pc sure that they use none as a plural themselves sometimes – and probably more often than not. It's entirely natural for all mother-tongue English speakers to respond to a question like "Are some of them coming?" by saying "No, none of them are".

You can say "none of them is" if you want to; I didn't write that none HAS to be plural. Sometimes it actually has to be singular, as in "none of this cheese is any good", and "none of that bread was very fresh". The people who like to prescribe how we "ought to" speak don't go around telling us to use is and was in those sentences, because all of us always do. That's a natural rule of English grammar which all of us use automatically. Cheese and bread in these sentences are singular, and so none is singular too.

What the prescriptivists criticise as "wrong" is the treatment of none as a



■ Our columnist refers to cheese in his explanation of whether the word 'none' is singular or plural. Picture: PA

plural in sentences like "none of these cheeses are any good". Some argue that "none is short for not one" (it isn't). Others use a kind of arithmetical reasoning which goes: zero is less than one; none refers to zero; so it can't possibly refer to more than one; so it can't possibly be plural.

The fact is that, in "none of the cheeses are", none is negating a plural noun and so is plural grammatically even if not mathematically. The Oxford English Dictionary understands this. It says that "it is sometimes held that none can only

take a singular verb, never a plural verb: none of them is coming tonight rather than none of them are coming tonight. There is little justification, historical or grammatical, for this view. None has been used for around a thousand years with both a singular and a plural verb."

So English speakers can continue to do what comes naturally to those of us who learned the true grammatical rules of our language as infants, and who instinctively treat none as a plural when it is.

None of the prescriptivists are right about plural none being "wrong".

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But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Rom 5:8

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