

Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1870

Our voters still need convincing on both sides of EU debate

This will be a crucial week for the debate about whether or not we remain in the European Union.

Like any relationship – political or otherwise – there are frustrations about our alliance, and the prime minister hopes the other 27 leaders in the union agree to address some of those concerns.

If agreement can be found, the question of whether we stay or go will be put to the British people.

Time is marching on and if the premier is successful this week, it could be as soon as June that we are given our say.

Today's poll – conducted by reporters across the Eastern Daily Press and East Anglian Daily Times – is a good indication of the views of people from our market towns to our coastal communities and urban centres.

With our network of district offices we have been out to speak to people of all ages face to face.

We have not had to rely on a group who can use the internet, or those who are at home to take a telephone call, which we think gives us a good indication of the mood in East Anglia.

What is clear is that neither the campaign to remain or the campaign to leave can be complacent.

While our poll suggests more of those who have made up their minds want to leave, East Anglia is not convinced on either side of the debate.

We urge a reasoned and measured campaign in the run up to referendum day. This is a crucial decision which must not be taken lightly.

We urge people to engage with the issues as they decide whether they think Britain's future is best in the union, or out.

A welcome development

Today we have the first look at a new centre which could further put Norwich at the forefront of global food and health research.

When completed, the Quadram Institute could become a world leader in an area of science that is of growing importance, potentially attracting more jobs and investment, not to mention treating up to 40,000 patients a year.

This is good news for Norwich.

The Norwich Research Park has been one of the city's great success stories, bringing together major institutions and thousands of researchers on a single site, with an emphasis on food, health and other life sciences.

These areas are becoming increasingly important in the global economy.

The Quadram Institute can only cement Norwich's position, and help raise the level of skills, ambition and aspiration we will need to succeed.

A true King of Sport

We have lost a true Norfolk giant. It is hard to summarise the life and impact of a man like Les King, who died yesterday, because he contributed so much, whether in sports like boxing and football, in areas like cinema and community activities, or, above all, supporting charity.

He was indeed a larger than life character, and he had a larger than life impact on our region.

He will be greatly missed.

Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.

Jeremiah 32:17

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READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ Early morning's frost and mist at Horsey by Peter Jarvis. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit www.iwitness24.co.uk

In the ever changing world of words there's a lot to take in

Peter Trudgill



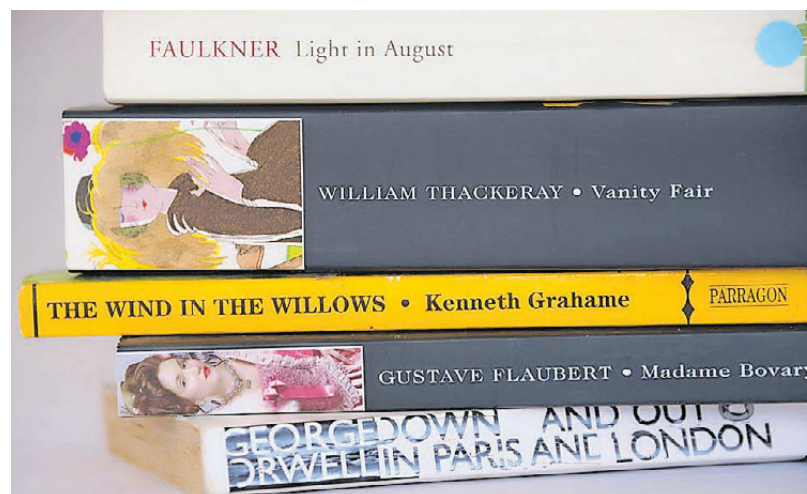
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I've recently been reading a book which was written in the 1860s. At one point, the author uses the expression "the new comers". Now, 150 years later, we would write "newcomers" and would pronounce it differently. The two-word spelling indicates that the Victorian pronunciation put the emphasis on come: new COMers. The modern spelling reflects the fact that we now put the stress on new: NEWcomers. What this change in stress shows is that the two original words have become a single word, just as "week END" has become "WEEKend".

I have previously written about how the phrase "three times" has replaced "thrice" in modern English; and that the word "mine" may be giving way to the expression "my one". This is part of a pattern where analytical, multi-word forms have taken over from more synthetic, single words in English.

But of course the opposite process must take place as well. There has to be a history of analytical forms becoming more synthetic, otherwise we wouldn't have had words like *thrice* in the first place.

Sometimes this two-words-become-one kind of development can have interesting grammatical consequences. Currently, the



■ Is it really wrong to say 'there's some books on the table'? asks Peter Trudgill.

Picture: LIBRARY

phrase "there is" is gradually turning into the single word "there's" in some contexts. We can see this happening by comparing speech and writing.

If we are writing, or speaking formally, we would normally make a difference between "There is a book on the table" and "There are some books on the table". But in normal everyday speech, it's quite usual for most of us to contract there is to there's and to say not only "There's a book on the table" but also "There's some books on the table".

Some people think this is wrong. They say "there is" is singular while "books" is plural. Those two assertions are perfectly

true. It's also correct that there's was originally a contracted form of there is.

But in contemporary English, it's very clear that "there's" is now both singular and plural. Really, it should be written "theres" – with no apostrophe – because it has turned into a single word, like newcomer. A similar example is provided by the French word *voilà*, which derives originally from the two-word sequence "vois là", "see there". This is grammatically interesting too, because *vois* is singular, while *voilà* can now be used when addressing several listeners.

In the world's languages, "theres" lots of other examples like this...