

Eastern Daily Press

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Response to storm gives some peace of mind for the future

If 2013's storm surge proved anything, it was that you can never be too prepared.

The devastating effects of nature were in full force on that occasion, wreaking havoc with homes, businesses and our coastline.

After the dust had settled, and the recovery had begun, it was essential that lessons were learned.

On Friday, when the threat of extreme weather returned, it soon became clear that they had.

Of course, the response had begun days before.

The first inkling of what was to come appeared early in the week, with snow, wind and low pressure forecast.

But those waiting for a magical winter scene were shaken out of that fantasy by reports of a serious set of conditions being on their way around Friday morning.

By that point, Norfolk's emergency services had already started to put their plan into action, calling on forces from across the country to lend a hand.

A drive to evacuate vulnerable homes began on Thursday night, and a flurry of warnings were issued.

Once the plan was in place, it fell to our emergency responders and volunteers to put it into action.

Their swift work made sure residents were made safe, and homes were protected.

And although the storm's impact was nowhere near 2013 levels, we're taking the opportunity to echo the thanks to those who worked tirelessly on the night.

Their efforts did not only make people safe, but they gave peace of mind to everyone involved.

And if another storm surge of 2013 levels comes along, we are reassured to know we are in safe hands.

Royals' gifts to Norfolk

It has been an open secret for some time that the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge would one day make London their base, as they take on more Royal duties.

The couple chose to make their main home in Norfolk four years ago to give their young family as normal a start to life as possible. While our county gave them the privacy they desired, they have given back so much in return.

The Duke, who has effectively worked for free by donating his salary back to the charity he serves, has helped save lives by flying an air ambulance.

As well as his day job, his presence at the controls has helped to raise the profile of the East Anglian Air Ambulance, which needs considerable sums to keep it in the air.

Among her increasing number of royal patronages, the Duchess has taken East Anglia's Children's Hospices and their £10m appeal to build a new children's hospice near Norwich to her heart. She is certain to remain as committed as ever to EACH until the nook becomes a reality.

We suspect that having grown to love the Norfolk life, they will take every opportunity to return to spend time in their adopted county.

Services see funny side

When police confirmed the hunt was on for a 'downed aircraft', it sounded like the start of a nightmare scenario.

Three hours later, even some of the emergency service crews couldn't help but laugh.

The search for the phantom aircraft was sparked by what is believed to be a flare from a military exercise.

It led to a mass 999 response, with crews turning up at Barnham Village Hall, only to be politely asked to move due to a children's party taking place.

Despite the slightly farcical situation, it's reassuring to know they are ready to respond when called upon – and that they see the funny side when it's not as serious as first feared.

READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ A canal boat spotted at Reedham on the Norfolk Broads. Photograph by Rosy Rose. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit www.iwitness24.co.uk

Yorite? Here's a short history of popular greetings

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As you will know if you've been around these parts for any length of time, a pretty normal thing to say if you bump into a friend on The Walk in Norwich on a Saturday morning is "Yorite?"

If you're feeling particularly relaxed and expansive, you might actually use the full form of the greeting, which is of course "Aryorite?"

People from other parts of the world can sometimes be a bit puzzled by this "yorite?" of ours, replying that, well, yes, they are alright, but why are we asking? Don't they look very well? The point is that, when we use our local salutation "Yorite?" like this, we are not really asking if someone is actually alright or not. We do not expect a reply along the lines of "Well, since you ask, I'm not really feeling too good at the moment and I've just been to the doctor's".

Over the decades, the phrase has lost its role as a question and turned into a relatively ritualised greeting formula. Most languages have ritual greeting formulas like this. Norwegian "Morn!" originally meant 'morning', but now it means 'hello' at any time of the day.

"Hiya!" also has the same kind of



■ 'Aryorite?': The relaxed Norfolk way of greeting old friends.

Picture: GETTY IMAGES

history. It was originally the genuine enquiry "How are you?" Over the years it has lost its function as a question, and became shortened and reduced as well. This is a common process – when you say "Bye!" to someone, you are using a reduced form of "God be with ye".

The greeting English people traditionally use when being introduced to someone they don't know – "How do you do!" – also started life as a genuine query, but now no longer is.

Once again, the correct response to "How do you do?" is not "well I'm a bit under the weather right now" but "How do

you do!". You answer what looks like a question, but isn't, with something which also looks like a question, but isn't. And I think it's correct to write it with an exclamation mark rather than a question mark.

"How do you do?" was simply the older counterpart of what in modern English would be "How are you doing?"

Using -ing forms like doing and going has become much more common over the last couple of hundred years in the English language.

When we would now say "Is the kettle boiling?" my Granny used to ask "Do the kittle bile?"