

Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1870

Don't deny differing opinions on Europe – deal with the issue

The current debate in the Conservative Party will give nightmares to some senior members, as Europe was one of the altars on which the party's last spell of power was sacrificed.

But that does not mean that health secretary Jeremy Hunt's "I see no ships" approach to the problem is wise – or helpful.

Mr Hunt maintains that the Conservatives are "absolutely united", in the face of overwhelming evidence that shows differing opinions within the party.

Some say stay in the EU, others say leave. Still others want Britain's membership renegotiated. And it is unlikely that electors will buy Mr Hunt's attempt to divert attention.

In fact, his intervention could be counter-productive, as it is surely the way that a split is handled that is most important not the fact that, in a party of many members, some of them disagree with each other.

Sadly for the Conservatives, the failure first to acknowledge and then to manage the differences has created a crack that the disaffected have been able to widen by forcing through their other grievances.

So now the waters of Europe are muddied by disquiet about same-sex marriage and vaguer mutterings about David Cameron's leadership.

All of which is, of course, music to the ears of the UK Independence Party and the Labour Party, who will be delighted to exploit any perceived lack of direction from the government.

We must get this right

Norwich used to be England's second city. But it is unlikely that any of its then residents thought the city and its outskirts would one day have 200,000 people living in it.

The fact that it could be swollen by a further 37,000 new homes by 2026 is mind-boggling. But that is not to say that it is wrong.

Tomorrow's public hearing about the expansion plan is arguably one of the most important in the history of city and county. It will influence how we try to maintain the balance between providing much-needed homes and retaining the beautiful character that makes Norfolk special.

Both sides in the debate must be listened to and taken seriously. And, most importantly, the right decision must be made – for the sake of Norwich, for the sake of Norfolk and for the sake of everybody who lives here. Let this crucial battle commence.

Big hearts, big crowds

Financial times are tight, and charity giving is supposed to be one of the first victims when people feel the pinch.

But the crowds that turned out for Race for Life and Ride for Life at the weekend showed that people are far from the point of charity fatigue.

The numbers were remarkable, as was the atmosphere at both locations, as the two events further raised the profile of a pair of great causes.

There will be some tired legs this morning, but a feeling of great satisfaction.

WORDS FOR LIFE

Anxiety weighs down the heart, but a kind word cheers it up.
Proverbs 12:25



tbc-online.org

READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ Dinah Goom sent us this picture of an early morning sighting by the Bure at Buxton, near Aylsham, of a beautiful young male roe deer. If you would like to submit a picture for possible inclusion on this page, please send it to www.iwitness24.co.uk

Togetherness is different here – youse can believe it

Peter
Trudgill



email: newsdesk@archant.co.uk

There is something very strange about the English pronoun system.

The Standard English dialect makes no difference between the second person singular pronoun, 'you', and the second person plural pronoun ... 'you'. This is rather odd, and can be confusing. If someone enters a room and says "how are you?", are they talking to me – or to us?

There used to be a difference in older forms of English – 'thou' referred to one person, and 'ye' or 'you' to two or more people.

But that original difference has been lost, except in some local dialects in the north and west of England.

The famous Yorkshire song, On Ilkka Moor Baht 'At, begins "Wheear 'ast tha bin sin' ah saw thee?" – "where hast thou been since I saw thee?"

Clearly it was only one person who'd been seen on Ilkley Moor without a hat. Instead of settling for the confusing



■ "How are you getting on together, together?" is a question that might still be posed in Norfolk.

Standard English system, though, many other dialects have restored the difference, for the obvious reason that it's rather inconvenient not to have one.

In Ireland, and places which experienced large-scale Irish immigration, 'you' is singular only – the

plural is 'youse'. If you go into a room full of people in Belfast and ask "How are you?", they may well look around to see which one of them you are actually talking to.

In the southern USA, people say 'y'all' if they want to refer to more than one person.

In Jamaican Creole English, 'you' is singular and the plural is 'unu', a word from the West African language Igbo.

And it's becoming increasingly common these days for English speakers everywhere to express the plural by saying "you guys".

You can also say things like 'you people' or 'you girls' or 'you lot' if that helps. It's useful to have these ways of making it clear what we mean.

But here, in our part of the world, according to the grammar of the Norfolk dialect, we have our own very special way of expressing you-plural: we use the phrase 'you...together'.

In the singular, we say 'come you on!'; and in the plural 'come you on, together!'. You can also just address a group of people as "together".

So "how are you getting on, together?" doesn't mean the same thing as "how are you getting on together?"

You can even say 'how are you getting on together, together?'

Have a good day, together.