

Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1870

A broadcasting great who made his mark on history

'London's lights beckon but Beccles is still home for David Frost' – so says the headline on a yellowing, dusty cutting from the depths of the EDP library.

The date on it is May 21, 1963, a good 14 years before the broadcaster's famous interviews with disgraced United States president Richard Nixon.

But it shows just how this region had got its hooks into a man who went on to get his into the man dubbed 'Tricky Dicky'.

He probably interviewed more world figures from royalty, politics, the Church, showbusiness and virtually everywhere else, than any other living broadcaster.

However, he retained an enormous affection for the little town in which he spent some of his formative years. As *That Was The Week That Was* made him a household name, Sir David still headed back to visit his family in Beccles.

Despite the lure of London, he made return trips to support the Beccles Methodist Youth Club, treading the boards to raise money for famine relief.

He won virtually all the major television awards available, despite being regularly scoffed at by fellow broadcasters for his allegedly non-aggressive style of questioning.

However, this disarming politeness and amiable manner meant he often extracted more revealing revelations from his subjects than more terrier-like inquisitors might have done.

Rest In Peace, Sir David. You've earned your place in history.

A great music spectacle

What a simply brilliant celebration of music our county hosted this weekend.

Some 30,000 people enjoyed the third annual Sundown Festival at the Norfolk Showground and – with performers such as Rita Ora, JLS and Jessie J on stage alongside a number of local acts – they were served up a great musical feast.

One of the great things about Sundown is how it unites people of all ages, with everyone from groups of teenagers to whole families having a great time listening to the live acts. The weather too added to the fun, with the sun shining down on the music fans on both days of the two-day spectacle. It may only be Sundown's third year, but it has already earned its place as a key date in our county's music calendar. With the 2013 extravaganza proving a great success, we look forward to hearing what treats Sundown will have in store for next year's festival.

Ready, steady, vote!

It's time to get voting! Twenty-two fantastic community projects are in with a chance of getting a share of £250,000 through The Big EDP Lottery Fund campaign.

But it's up to you to decide which of the short-listed organisations should get the grants.

Starting tomorrow, we will be featuring each of these wonderful groups and inviting our readers to vote for them using coupons which we will print in these pages.

It's all down to you now, so please make sure you let us know which groups you think are most deserving of a helping hand.

WORDS FOR LIFE

The Lord leads with unfailing love and faithfulness all who keep his covenant and obey his demands.
Psalm 29:10



READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ Sunset looks beautiful at Thetford in this photograph by Eve Stoneburgh. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit www.iwitness24.co.uk.

What you say and what we hear makes a big difference

Peter Trudgill



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Is language really for communication?

I was on the market waiting to buy something at a stall with lots of other customers. The man who was doing his best to serve everybody was joined by a woman coming to help him. She looked – half at us customers and half at him – and said "Who's next?". He pointed to me and said "He was, and then next", indicating the couple next to me. So I moved forward to get served. But then I saw the couple were moving forward as well, and the woman who was serving was looking a bit cross. "No, you're not next", she said to me. It emerged, after a brief and amiable discussion, that what the man had really said was "He wasn't, then next".

You can see how that could happen. My hearing isn't as good as it used to be when I was younger – nobody's is. But against the background noise of the busy market, I think quite a few people might have heard "he wasn't then next" as "he was'n then next". The only difference was the microsecond-long presence of the 't' sound.

That made me think about an important question for linguistics. Is language really



■ Norwich market can be a Tower of Babel if you're not in the know.

for speaking? Is it really for communicating information? Obviously we do use it for that. But surely if language's original function was for communication, we could have come up with something better than this flawed system which fails to work properly quite so often?

Miscommunication isn't always due to mishearing either. It can also have to do with the ambiguity of many words. And with misinterpretation – how often do we find ourselves saying "that's not what I meant"?

Some specialists think that maybe the original purpose of language wasn't for speaking at all, but for cognition – for

thinking with. Perhaps speaking to each other was just a kind of secondary benefit? We certainly use the categories set up for us by our language to classify and think about the world. For Norwegians, the word "hus" doesn't just mean 'house', it means 'building'. So if they're speaking English, they may tell you the library is "in that house there". Obviously they're not dividing the world up like we are.

And you can still – back on Norwich Market – buy milches and roes at the fish stalls. When people from elsewhere call milches "soft roes", we think that's very strange. They're not roes at all. They're milches.