

# Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1870

## Now is the time to support the stricken people of our region

The spirit of generosity that underpins this region is hard to explain, but so often demonstrated in remarkable ways.

Time and time again, you have dug deep to help children, adults and communities both here and further afield when a need has arisen.

The response to the recent EDP Philippines Typhoon Appeal was staggering, with more than £50,000 pledged to help. That appeal is now finished.

Now, to our deep sadness, the desperate need is on our doorstep. And we know that you will reach out to help.

We know because we have seen the evidence. People have opened up their homes, given money, handed over blankets, volunteered time to clear up, and offered a shoulder to cry on. And animal-lovers have done a splendid job in treating our wonderful wildlife, including the special seals.

That is why we can, with confidence, ask you once again to dig deep – this time for our EDP Norfolk and Lowestoft Flood Appeal. As you can see from today's harrowing photographs and stories, Mother Nature's anger was unleashed on our coastline, and the legacy is devastation – to homes, hopes, dreams and communities.

Our hearts go out to those living in Walcott and Hemsby, where the destruction has been exacerbated by the knowledge that many householders could not get insurance.

And we feel for residents and business owners who have suffered damage that will be expensive to put right.

We also stand together with the towns and villages whose defences have been battered – with cash-strapped councils wondering how they will afford the cost of putting them back together. But we are not helpless. Each one of us can make a difference, and by doing so, begin to bring warmth back into some hearts chilled by pain.

We have kick-started the EDP Norfolk and Lowestoft Flood Appeal with £1,000, and have already been given generous backing by the Norfolk Community Foundation, Norman Lamb and others.

We know that the donations will soon be dwarfed by giving from across our region. And while the great December flood will always be a dark day, its aftermath will see us all shine.

## Canaries back on song

That's more like it. It was great to see the Canaries back on song with an important 2-0 win at West Bromwich after two abysmal away days at Manchester City and Liverpool, where Norwich had lost 7-0 and 5-1 respectively.

Saturday's three points has not only kept at arms' length the vultures which were circling above under-fire City boss Chris Hughton's head, but they have moved the team four points clear of the dreaded bottom three and within striking distance of the top half of the table.

However, this cannot be another false dawn and the team needs to carry the confidence a win can bring into the busy festive and new year period which will determine whether or not this will be a season in which they are flying high or fighting relegation.

With three of the last four games of 2013 at Carrow Road, Norwich can hopefully put their recent travel sickness behind them and show that home is where the heart is.

lookingforGOD.com

The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.  
Psalm 29:11

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tlcnorwich.com

## READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ Peter Dent travelled to north Norfolk to capture this flock of golden plover at Salthouse. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit [www.iwitness24.co.uk](http://www.iwitness24.co.uk)

## Language death is biggest cultural tragedy of modern age

Peter Trudgill



email: [newsdesk@archant.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk@archant.co.uk)

The original language of our country – the earliest language we know about – was Welsh. Three thousand years ago, and possibly much earlier, everybody in Norfolk spoke Welsh – or rather its ancestor, Brittonic Celtic.

By the year 1,000, however, this ancient language had been pushed back to the far west of our country – Cornwall, Devon, Wales, the Lake District.

And now, although it's not doing too badly, there are only some areas of Wales where a majority of people use Welsh on a daily basis.

One problem Welsh people encounter in trying to preserve their language, and pass it on to future generations, is all the English people who are moving in.

Because North Wales is a beautiful area, people want to go and live there – and some of them then expect everybody to speak English to them.

Some even object, disgracefully, to the local language being used in schools, in a way they would never dream of doing if they had moved to France.

Language death is the biggest cultural



■ Thousands of years ago we spoke an ancestor of the Welsh language, Brittonic Celtic.

tragedy in the modern world. Perhaps 90pc of the world's languages will be dead in 200 years' time.

So the Welsh are quite right to do everything they can to defend their language against anything that jeopardises its future – including incomers.

But dialect death is also a tragedy; and here in Norfolk we are right to try to defend our dialect against anything which jeopardises its future too – including incomers.

Of course, when adults come in gradually and form a small proportion of the population, their children will acquire our local way of speaking, even if some incoming parents, disgracefully, don't want them to.

But if very large numbers of outsiders

were to arrive all at once, this would threaten our local culture and speech, because then the children will not be surrounded by a majority of locals to learn from.

It now seems that 30,000 new houses are going to be built in the Norwich area. Quite a lot of them may be built in the unspoilt rural areas east of the city where I used to walk and cycle when I was young.

I know there are homeless people in the Norwich area – but surely not, at 2.3 per household, 70,000 of them?

No, apparently, this vast amount of new building is because "Norfolk is a beautiful area, and people want to come and live here".

Speaking personally, I rather wish they wouldn't.