

Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1870

Saluting the amazing generosity of our wonderful readers

A month ago, when we launched our appeal to help those whose lives were turned upside down by Typhoon Haiyan, we knew we were asking a lot of our readers. It was the week of Children in Need, household budgets were under pressure and people were saving up for Christmas.

The need may have been many miles away, but we knew that the plight of so many people in the Philippines had touched our readers deeply, and we were confident they wanted to help.

In fact, you responded with a generosity we could never have imagined. Unicef told us that raising more than £40,000 was unprecedented for a regional newspaper campaign.

Then, just over a week ago, communities much closer to home saw their worlds shaken by the devastating North Sea tidal surge. Thankfully no-one here died, but the stories of families who lost everything are heart-breaking.

Again, we asked our readers to dig deep and help those in need, and after just a week, our flood appeal is approaching an astonishing £100,000.

We are speechless.

The responses to these two appeals, one for people many thousands of miles away, one for members of our own community, shows the people of our region at their very best. At home and abroad, need is need, suffering is suffering, and compassion is compassion.

We salute each and every reader who has given whatever they can, however large or small. You have helped make this world a better place. Thank you, from the bottom of our heart.

Under the spotlight

It's been seven months since the political landscape at Norfolk County Council was transformed in the local elections.

It has not been an easy time for the new administration, which inherited the hugely controversial incinerator saga and much publicised problems in the children's services department.

But these are crucial times for the council, as it faces the prospect of making £189m of savings over the next three years – which will mean service cuts.

And, with the so-called rainbow alliance initially installed for a year, to move towards a committee system, what happens after May remains unclear.

It is important that the council is scrutinised, which is why the EDP today starts a series of articles exploring the actions, past and present, of the authority.

An awe-inspiring effort

A trek across the Antarctic ice to the South Pole would be a daunting challenge for even the fittest able-bodied person.

So for someone to make this journey after losing both his legs is an awe-inspiring achievement. The never-say-die attitude of soldiers like Duncan Slater proves that no barrier is too great for those who refuse to be defeated. And his efforts can inspire us all to see beyond our own limitations and reach our goals with the same positivity.

lookingforGOD.com

I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord. They are plans for peace and not disaster.
Jeremiah 29:11

tlc

tlcnorwich.com

READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ Peter Gibson captured this Christmas scene of twinkling lights on a quiet night in Holt. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit www.iwitness24.co.uk

It's all in a name – and there are so many variations

Peter Trudgill



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■ London to us – but the French insist on calling our capital city Londres.

It's rather well known that French-speaking people don't call our national capital London, they call it Londres. It's perhaps not so well known that the Greeks call it Londino, the Italians Londra, and the Poles Londyn. In Albanian it's called Londer, in Finnish Lontoo, in Lithuanian Londonas and, in the original language of this country, Welsh, it's Llundain.

There's a common tendency for places which have been of historical importance to have different names in different languages. We call München Munich, the Italians call it Monaco, the Poles say Monachium, and the Czech name is Mnichov.

It's not like that for humble settlements, of course. A place such as, say, Blickling, is not going to be called anything other than Blickling. And, sadly, even our local capital city has not had foreign language names in modern times, apart from the Latinised version Norvic – though it was formerly called Noordwijk in Dutch (Yarmouth was Jarmuiden). That's a pity – having different names in other languages is a sign of fame and distinction.

We ourselves have lots of English-language names for important centres which are different from their local names. Rome, Athens, Venice, Gothenburg, Florence, Belgrade, Prague, Lisbon, Cologne, Copenhagen, Vienna are just a few such names – Vienna is Wien, Prague is Praha, Florence is Firenze.

But some of the English names we used to have for important foreign places have been forgotten. The German city of Trier used to be Treves in English. We originally called Leipzig Leipsic, but most people don't know that anymore. Other names are now in the process of being forgotten.

The English for Basel is Basle, but Ryanair don't know that. It's probably more common to write Lyon than Lyons these days. Some Americans talked about

Torino during that city's winter Olympics because they didn't know the English name is Turin.

And who now remembers that Calais – which was actually part of England for a couple of centuries – and Boulogne used to have English-language names? Calais was called Callis. And the English name for Boulogne was Bullen.

Bullen is also a surname, of course. This isn't a coincidence. The family name is probably derived from the English word for Boulogne.

It's a surname which is much more common in Norfolk than almost anywhere else in Britain. And there's a special resonance for us about this name because of the one very famous Norfolk person, probably born at Blickling, who bore it – our tragic queen Anne Boleyn.