

# Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1870

## It is in our interests for our Scottish cousins to prosper

What Scottish independence will actually mean to the lives of people living north of the border if they vote "yes" must be clearly set out before they go to the polls.

Both sides of the campaign are making their case.

The most significant development over the last few weeks has been the revelation that it will not include being part of a currency union.

While they may be able to continue to use the pound, the Scots will not have control of their monetary policy if that is what they opt for. Devolution in 1998 has already seen the country given control over most of its domestic issues, but it must now decide if wider economic and industrial policy and defence strategy should be the responsibility of the Scottish Parliament too.

But the question of whether Scotland splits is not just relevant to those living in Scotland. We would be diminished by a split. There are many Scots living in Norfolk and Suffolk and elsewhere in England who do not want to see the countries divided.

"Yes" campaigners make much of the perception that the southerners are bullying and bossing them to stay. It is up to the electorate to decide if this is the reality, and if a break with the status quo is a risk worth taking.

Ultimately the people of Scotland have the power to decide democratically, and that is how it should be. A far cry from the Jacobite rebellion, this time a move for independence is being done without arms. If this is the course they want to take then we must respect it and help them to thrive.

A messy and bitter divorce will help no one. It is in our interests for our Scottish cousins to prosper.

## Cuts have consequences

We should be encouraged to recycle. The easier it is to do, the more we are going to do it.

And in making cuts the council must ensure that it is not the more remote communities which are hit.

People in small towns and villages already have to travel too many miles to access some services.

The concerns that charging for some recycling centres could encourage fly-tipping are also valid.

This is why a law to ensure that recycling is provided free of charge is an important one. It is vital we protect our beautiful countryside. But the ministers who have written to Norfolk County Council must also appreciate that this is the knock-on effect of huge cuts to their budgets from central government.

Cuts are having consequences and this potential charge for recycling centres is one of them.

## Welcome return

Norfolk has a great history and tradition in so many things, not least pubs, which is why it is wonderful to see The Locks Inn at Geldeston open for business again.

Two weeks ago the riverside pub had to be closed after it was surrounded by flood water from the River Waveney which had burst its banks – making it too dangerous for customers to get there – but this weekend people made a welcome return to the traditional Norfolk watering hole.

## READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

# iwitness24



Caroline Coles Photos

■ Caroline Coles spotted this barn owl out hunting at Halesworth. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit [www.iwitness24.co.uk](http://www.iwitness24.co.uk)

## We East Anglians really are a diverse bunch of folk

Peter  
Trudgill

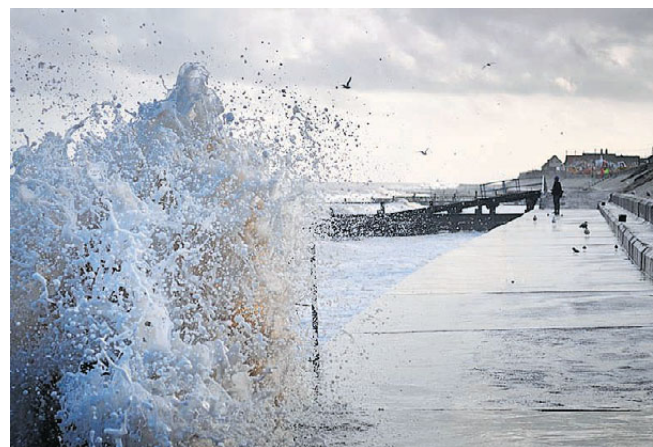


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We were told at school that the Germanic invaders who crossed the North Sea to Britain in the fifth century were the Angles and Saxons. The Saxons, from north-west Germany, settled in Essex, Middlesex, Sussex and Wessex. The Angles, from southern Jutland, dominated everywhere else, including Norfolk and Suffolk – East Anglia.

If anyone doubted the truth of what our teachers said, it can be demonstrated rather nicely through a little bit of linguistic detective work on our local place names. Think about the Suffolk village called Saxham, near Bury St Edmunds. This name meant "the home of the Saxons". That might seem to contradict what we were told at school, but of course it doesn't.

The village was called that because there was something unusual, in Suffolk, about being a Saxon. Everyone else was an Angle. Because there was nothing distinctive about being an Angle in Norfolk or Suffolk, we have no placenames with Angle as an element. Where you do find such names is in Wessex. Englefield, in



■ Walcott, which in Old English meant 'the cottage of the Welsh'.  
Picture: ANTONY KELLY

Berkshire, meant the "field of the Angles" – which tells you very clearly that everybody else round there was a Saxon.

But East Anglia did have something of an ethnic mix. There weren't just Angles and Saxons here. We also had Frisians, who made it over to England from their homeland along the Dutch/Belgian coast. We can see this from the Suffolk village names Friston and Freston – "the village of the Frisians".

There were also other Germanic tribes hanging around. Swabia today is the part of Germany around Stuttgart, but the Swabian tribe spread far and wide in those days: the name of our Norfolk town of Swaffham meant "the home of the Swabians". Flempton in Suffolk, also near

Bury, indicates the presence of Flemings, who had come from areas inland from the Frisians.

As another part of this fascinating ethno-linguistic mix, East Anglia also had plenty of survivors from the original Celtic population. On the Norfolk coast, just across the sea from the Frisian homeland, is the village of Walcott, which in Old English meant "the cottage of the Welsh".

So Celts, Angles, Saxons, Frisians, Flemings, Swabians – there was a rich mix of peoples in early East Anglia. With such a diverse gene pool in our ancestry it's no surprise that the native people of modern Norfolk and Suffolk are such a fine bunch.

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Hate starts quarrels, but love covers every wrong.  
Proverbs 10:12

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