

Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1870

Honouring those who made the ultimate sacrifice

Tonight will be 100 years ago to the night that – in the words of the then foreign secretary Sir Edward Grey – the “lamps went out all over Europe”, and the world was at war:

Across Britain, in a symbolic gesture of remembrance of all that followed, many will turn out their lights this evening and burn a candle of reflection.

It is just one of hundreds of ways, both in our region and beyond, in which people are remembering the conflict, and honouring those who fell during it.

Readers of the EDP will have an idea of the sheer volume of projects under way from the coverage we have been giving them. There are many more which we have yet to report, but will do so as the centenary progresses. The scale of commemoration, in schools, libraries, churches, theatres and village halls across East Anglia, reflects a great enthusiasm among the population – only a tiny fraction of whom will actually have any memory of the conflict – to learn more about what happened and give thanks to those who lost lives.

The schemes are as much about looking forward as looking back.

And that is why the EDP months ago committed itself to a project updating the region's roll of the fallen.

The draft list, produced in Saturday's paper, was drawn up in the immediate aftermath of the conflict, before the fog of war had fully cleared.

Now, with towns and villages involved in detailed Great War projects, we will update our archive as the information comes in.

To ensure not a man or woman is forgotten, we will add new names when we get them.

Celebrating rural life

In an age when we all have such a huge choice of high-tech modern entertainment, it is comforting to know that a traditional agricultural show can still pull in the crowds.

For many of the thousands who poured through the gates at the Wayland Show, particularly the children, it could have been their first chance to experience countryside pursuits and to see and touch livestock at close quarters.

The success of this fine event – and the ingredient which has sustained it for more than 140 years – is that it has stayed true to the roots of the farming landscape which is the lifeblood of our county. But while our rural traditions remain extremely valuable, our agricultural industries are themselves moving into an increasingly technological future – making it as important as ever for everyone to appreciate, understand and support them.

Nelson knowledge

There seem to be few historical figures who have attracted more myths than Lord Nelson – from those surrounding his last moments – and who said what to whom – to whether he wore an eye patch or not (it seems he did not).

So the launch by the Forum, in Norwich, of a new “app” teaching knowledge of the great man is to be welcomed.

Even for those of us who thought we were Nelson buffs there seems to be plenty more to learn. It may not put an end to all those myths – but it will become a useful reference point for when they need debunking.

READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ A greylag goose flies over Cley Marshes in this photograph taken by reader David Thacker. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit www.iwitness24.co.uk

Strictly speakin there is no G to drop when you're talkin



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I was talking to someone the other day who strongly objected to people saying runnin instead of running. She said she didn't like it because “dropping your Gs is lazy”.

Lazy is a pretty odd word to use in this context.

It means “disinclined to work”, and it applies to people who can't be bothered to make an effort to do things they're supposed to do. But where did the idea come from that you are “supposed to” say running rather than runnin? And is it really more of an effort to say one rather than the other? Is it easier to say goblin than gobbling, or robin than robbing? No, of course it isn't.

It's not true either to say that the pronunciation of running as runnin involves dropping a g: there was no g sound there to drop in the first place!

The two letters ng stand for a single nasal sound which bears the same relationship to n that g does to d. (Try saying bang, ban and then bag, bad, and you'll see what I mean.)

It's unfortunate that we don't have a single letter in our alphabet to represent it, so we have to use two, as we also do with sh, ch and th. Saying sip rather than ship



■ Running or runnin? It really doesn't matter... Norfolk people say runnen anyway.

doesn't involve leaving out an h, and saying robin rather than robbing doesn't involve leaving out a g.

In Norfolk and Suffolk we don't actually say walkin anyway; we say walken.

We pronounce baking the same as bacon, and lighting the same as lighten. And we are quite right to do so.

Modern English -ing does two different jobs.

It's used to turn verbs like walk into nouns, as in “walking is good for you” – these are called gerunds.

Secondly, it produces present participles, as in “she's walking down the road”.

In medieval English, the gerunds had the same -ing ending that they have today. But the present participles had -end.

Eventually, the Standard English dialect lost the distinction between the gerund and the participle, and finished up using -ing for both.

In Norfolk we also lost the distinction, but we “did different” and went the other way, using -end for both instead.

So when we say walken, it's true that there was a d there that went missing, many hundreds of years ago.

But no one here is dropping any Gs. And no one is being lazy.

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When I said, “My foot is slipping,”
your unfailing love, Lord,
supported me.
Psalm 94:18

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