

Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1870

Time to ensure East Anglia gets its fair share of funding

Friday was day one of a new United Kingdom – and United Kingdom that still includes Scotland.

The historic referendum has not just put the spotlight on how Scotland wants to be governed, and where it wants its decisions to be made, but has also put a sharp focus on the same questions for the rest of the United Kingdom.

While the political parties are divided about who should hold powers, they all agree that the status quo is no longer an option.

Scotland holds a strong hand and will be holding the three main party leaders to the fire over promises made in the heat of battle.

The Welsh have their own assembly.

Leaders in the great northern cities have clubbed together to call for more powers.

Who is fighting our corner?

Whatever the shape of negotiations in the coming months, Norfolk, Suffolk and the Fens must have a strong voice.

The size of our slice of public sector spending must be part of the debate.

We have long been a poor relation in so many areas of public spending. While London was at the forefront of decision makers' consciousness when it came to education, our schools suffered. On transport infrastructure we are the Cinderella region. The list goes on.

In the coming months it is vital that our MPs and other leaders unite to fight for the biggest share of central funds they can as a historic shake up of how we are governed, and how money is allocated ensues.

Killer must be caught

After a week which has changed their lives forever, the family of murdered Hannah Witheridge have brought the body of their daughter home to the UK.

But the investigation seems to be stuttering. Each day new leads are revealed, but so far little progress has been made.

It is a difficult time for the Thai police force, with the eyes of the world focused on their progress in this high-profile case, and all too ready to criticise their efforts.

Hannah's family are working closely with police to help in the investigation and bring those responsible to justice – and they say that bringing Hannah home where she belongs is an enormous relief for them. A further relief will come with the knowledge that Hannah's murderer is behind bars. The killer, or killers, must be caught.

Such a sensible solution

Who knows whether Virgil the wagtail was delighted to be out in the fresh air after its stay in Great Yarmouth's Tesco superstore or sorry to be evicted from its cosy roost? Tesco had been given permission to shoot it on hygiene grounds, but after pleas for mercy from a range of groups – including this newspaper – there was a reprieve.

It was removed safely this weekend. Some may have seen it as a major flap about a minor issue, but it's a sensible solution which leaves one young wagtail alive and flying free.

READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



Lee Ackers captured this photograph of the autumnal sun's rays breaking through the trees during a cycle ride in Thetford Forest. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit www.iwitness24.co.uk

Why we put the 'great' in so many of our place names

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Although it is undoubtedly a very fine place, people have been known to wonder exactly what it is that's so great about Great Snoring.

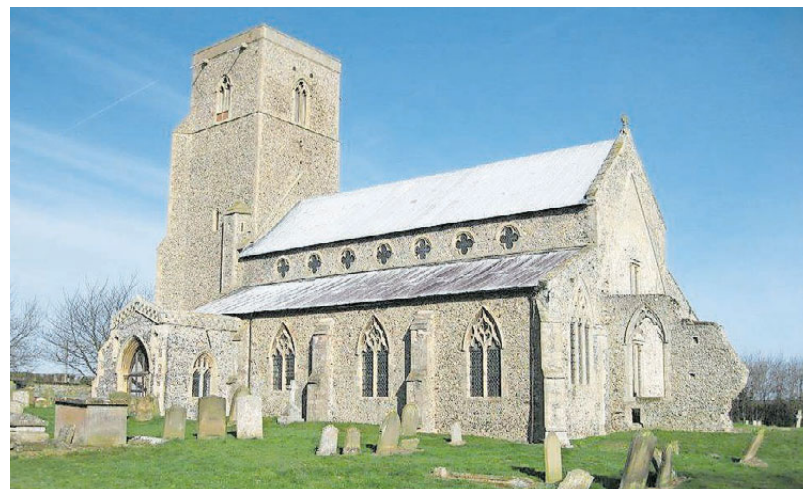
The answer is that it's exactly the same as what's great about Great Walsingham, Great Dunham and Great Witchingham. And that's exactly the same as what's great about Great Britain.

Great in Norfolk village names simply distinguishes these places from nearby villages called Little Walsingham, Little Dunham and Little Witchingham. The name Great Britain similarly serves to distinguish this country from (Little) Brittany, in France.

The distinguishing element is important. Although outsiders may talk about Great Yarmouth, Norfolk people don't do that. For us it's just Yarmouth, because there's no longer a Little Yarmouth to distinguish it from – that got swallowed up by Gorleston long ago.

So there is nothing necessarily great in an evaluative sense about Great Cressingham, although it does have a very fine church, or about the Great Ouse.

Great in these names simply means "big", which was the older meaning of the word. We can see this from the fact that



Places such as Great Walsingham have the word 'great' in their name to differentiate them from the little villages of the same name.

the Virgin Mary was said to be "great with child". A greatcoat is, presumably, bigger than other coats. And a great tit is – I'm guessing – larger than other birds of the same name.

The word goes back to an ancient West Germanic form *graut-* which meant something like "big, tall, thick".

The modern word in Dutch and Afrikaans is *groot*, in Low German *grot*, and in German *gross*. In the language which is most closely related to English, West Frisian, which is spoken just across the North Sea from here in the northern Netherlands, the word is *grut*.

All these words simply mean "large, big", and have none of the positively

favourable implications associated with English phrases like "we had a great time", or "she's written a great new book".

The fact that great no longer necessarily has any connection with size in English can be seen from the fact that it makes perfectly good sense for us to say "that's a great little painting". You couldn't say that in German.

But in the Norfolk dialect we can still use the word to mean simply big, if we want to.

A sighting of a bird rather larger than a great tit sitting on the top of a barn might provoke the statement that "there wus a gret ol' bud up there".

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God is love.
1 John 4:16

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