

Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1870

Energy scheme has much potential, but city must come first

If anybody is going to know how to create a sustainable, clean, power plant, then you would have thought the University of East Anglia – home of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change – would be precisely those people.

So for them to be one of the investors in the proposed Generation Park project in Norwich ought to give confidence to people that this scheme is not going to be another King's Lynn or Costessey incinerator.

Professor Trevor Davies, from the UEA is well aware of the sour taste those schemes have left and is being up front about what is being proposed at Generation Park.

He is right to realise that the people of Norwich will not simply accept that an energy plant with a 55m high chimney should be built in the heart of the city without reassurances (and evidence) about what that will mean in terms of pollution, safety, noise and smell.

The Generation Park does sound like a good opportunity for Norwich, particularly given the creation of new jobs; energy security for businesses; the chance for youngsters to learn skills in a growing sector and the opportunity to reduce the city's carbon footprint by a massive amount.

The right noises are being made in terms of sustainability and consultation with the local community. It is crucial that those views are listened to. If this does deliver what is promised, then it sounds like a scheme with rich potential. What it must not be is simply a cash cow for investment fund managers, the UEA and E.ON.

Clearly these projects do not just pay for themselves and they have to be commercially viable. But the interests of the city must always come first.

Preserving our heritage

So how did you fare in our Brecklands quiz? Even the keenest of local residents may have struggled with some of the questions.

And that surely is testament to the fine history we enjoy here – not just in Breckland but throughout our region.

Elsewhere today, we report on attempts to revive the long-lost port of Cley, a renovation project on a remarkable Broads craft dating back decades, an historic Lynn townhouse brought back to its prime, a scheme to preserve Kett's Oak and even a tale of the nineteenth century graverobbers who stalked Great Yarmouth.

These tales reflect just some strands of the rich tapestry that has been woven through the centuries across our corner of the country. And they show the extent that you, our readers, enjoy this heritage and want to keep it alive, in these fast moving times. As we also report today, this forward-facing part of the world is developing and changing fast. But we do not lose sight of our history.

A fine winter weekend

Our region went into this weekend on full weather alert, amid dire warnings and forecasts from some experts of the imminent arrival of a full blast of winter at its most ferocious. Well, despite a light dusting of snow in some areas on Saturday – largely gone by lunchtime – it seems that for most of us the weekend was a pleasant surprise: winter days at their finest.

Cold, crisp, clear skies – the sort of days that are so good at showing our region in all its natural beauty.

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Anxiety in a person's heart weighs him down, but an encouraging word brings him joy.
Proverbs 12:25

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READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ On a quick jaunt on the way home from work, Michael Nichols spotted these two horses that reminded him of two 80s popstars at Gorleston. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit www.iwitness24.co.uk.

We've all got an accent, however much we say we haven't...

Peter Trudgill



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A number of people have written letters to the EDP in which they claim, or mention in passing, that they “don't have an accent”.

They're not alone: there are many people in the world who think only other people have accents.

“You have an accent!” people in America exclaim when they meet an English person.

They don't mean anything bad by it – they're just being friendly and are intrigued by the way you speak, but they clearly don't think they have an accent themselves. Which of course they do – an American accent, as everyone here will agree.

I haven't met any of the letter-writers “without an accent”, but I'm happy to say that I'm quite sure that, like the Americans, they are not correct in what they say. The fact is that everybody has an accent, including you and me and Her Majesty the Queen. There are no exceptions.

The term accent refers to pronunciation, and you can't speak without pronouncing.

Your accent is simply the way you pronounce the vowels and consonants of your language, and the intonation



■ Stephen Fry's pronunciation makes him hard to place.

patterns you use.

Accents are mostly acquired in early childhood, and in this country they are simultaneously both social and regional. The higher up the social scale your origin, the fewer regional clues your accent normally contains. Some people sound like they come from Norwich, some like they come from somewhere in East Anglia, some just like they come from somewhere in the English south-east.

And you can't tell from his accent where Stephen Fry comes from at all, except somewhere in England – but you can tell a lot about his social background. Sometimes when people say “I don't have an accent”, they mean they speak with

this regionless upper-class accent – but they are wrong because it is still an accent.

Other people may mean they have a mixed accent, because they moved a lot in their childhood and so “come from” several different places: their accents are not regional in any straightforward sense, though a linguist will often be able to point to the different regional sources of the mixture.

But these people do still have an accent like the rest of us do, even if it may be unique to themselves.

The accents which we all have are part of ourselves and our identity; and we have no reason to be anything but happy about them, whatever our background.