

# Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1870

## Communities have the power to save their precious local pubs

Not too many years ago, there seemed to be little that could be done to stop the gradual disappearance of pubs.

Along with shops and post offices, our communities were being robbed of their focal points – usually never to return.

Thankfully, people and politicians have since been roused to do something about it, and campaigns such as the one to save the King's Arms at Shouldham have demonstrated the demand for pubs – and the will to fight for them.

But it is clear from our research today that there is much more that could be done.

The government's assets of community value (ACV) scheme is an open goal for communities that want to safeguard the future of their pubs.

Which makes it rather perplexing that so few places have taken advantage of it.

It is not too late, though.

And the recent strengthening of the law, to prevent the demolition of ACV-listed pubs without planning permission, makes it even more attractive to register them.

So we do not hesitate to get behind the Norfolk and Norwich branch of the Campaign for Real Ale, which is urging more communities to register their pubs.

This is a wonderful opportunity to give our pubs the chance to thrive, without the shadow of closure hanging over them.

And it is a chance for people to get together and fight for their community assets.

Don't hesitate – just do it.

## A special friend indeed

Few can ever have played such a leading role in the public life of our county as the Earl of Leicester, who passed away in the early hours of Saturday with his family at his bedside.

Today we mourn a man who modernised his country estate, turning Holkham Hall and its magnificent surroundings into a national treasure, visited by thousands upon thousands every year.

Lord Leicester's passion for conserving both our built heritage and our glorious countryside led him to become involved in countless groups and organisations, fighting to save them for future generations to enjoy.

Like his celebrated ancestor, the pioneering farmer Coke of Holkham, he was a visionary and reformer, a man of conviction. He cared deeply for Norfolk and her people and we will miss him greatly. Best wishes and condolences to Sarah, Countess of Leicester.

## Time to pull together

Unless there is a remarkable sequence of results over the next week, Norwich City will be in the play-offs.

The draw at Rotherham on Saturday – which followed the defeat against Middlesbrough – appears to have ended the hopes of an automatic jump to the Premier League.

We now need to all pull together to ensure momentum is rediscovered and ensure the dream of promotion stays alive.

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God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life.

James 1:12

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## READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ A rich carpet of gently scented bluebells is delighting visitors to the ancient woods at Foxley where Simon Bamber took this photograph. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit [www.iwitness24.co.uk](http://www.iwitness24.co.uk)

## The 'unseethroughableness' of our English language

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I was once briefly taken ill with a condition caused by medication I was taking. The condition was called hyponatraemia. "Blimey," said alarmed English friends when I told them, "that sounds really serious – what on earth is it?"

Greek friends had a very different reaction, when I mentioned it to them. "Oh yes," they said calmly, "not enough salt."

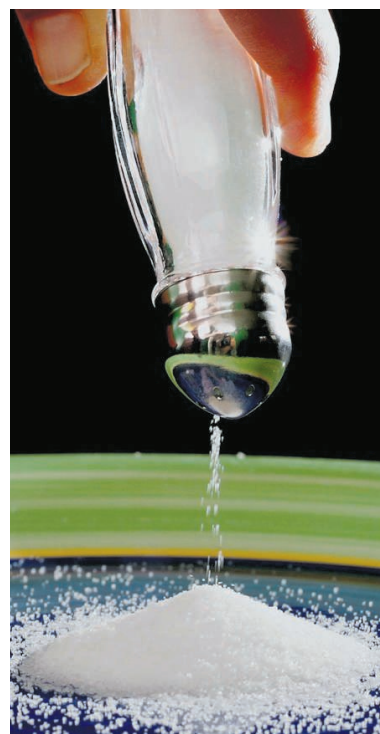
Hyponatraemia is a condition where there's too little sodium in the blood. Greeks who have never heard this medical term have no trouble working out what it means.

The Greek word for blood is aema; natrio means sodium; ypo means under or sub- (sub-title in Greek is ypo-titlos); so for them the meaning of the word is totally transparent.

Talking of transparency, Undurchsichtigkeit is a long German word which is nevertheless totally transparent to German speakers.

Translating it bit by bit, the different parts of Un-durch-sicht-ig-keit are equivalent to English un-through-sight-y-hood, so unseethroughableness.

The normal English word for this is



■ Greek friends were quick to understand when our columnist suffered hyponatraemia – a lack of sodium (salt) in the blood.

Picture: LIBRARY

opacity, a word which is itself opaque: English-speaking children hearing this

originally Latin word for the first time cannot work out from its structure what it means, while a German child can do so easily with their version.

This aspect of English has been called "the lexical bar" by some educationists. English-speaking children are at a disadvantage because of the way English expanded its vocabulary over the last few centuries, not by creating new words from its own resources so they are easy to understand and learn, like many other languages, but by borrowing words from Greek and Latin.

We have the word omnivorous; Norwegian has altetende, "all-eating". English has ambidextrous; the German is beidhändig, "both-handed". We have incoherent; Dutch has onsamenhangend, "un-together-hanging".

Our usage of alien sources is a barrier which, it is argued, has kept an important area of English vocabulary out of the reach of large parts of the population, hence the feared elitist category of "long words".

But, as German shows, it's not length which is the problem, but unseethroughableness.

It's a problem which could have been avoided.

Unlike with many other languages, the English speaking men who carried out the important work of expanding our vocabulary in the 1600s and 1700s, introducing all sorts of new scientific, philosophical and cultural terms, looked to Latin and Greek for help because they thought their own vernacular language was inadequate and inferior.

They were wrong.