

Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1870

Princess Charlotte's christening was a delight for crowds

Pushed to church by her mother in a vintage pram, through the cheering crowds of well-wishers, Princess Charlotte Elizabeth Diana made her first public appearance in the county where her parents have chosen to make their home.

Instead of locking up the gates of the park while her private christening service took place at Sandringham, the Royal Family opened up prime vantage points along the path and in a paddock nearby, so that members of the public could see their newest arrival at close quarters.

Their decision to share the occasion – a world event so capably managed by Norfolk police – brought delight to those who had queued for hours and braved showers for a glimpse of Charlotte and her older brother, Prince George.

They saw her tears and her chubby cheeks, they saw her beautiful gown. They saw the lovely moment captured in the image on our front page today, as her mother gently calmed and comforted her with a loving look before the service.

They smiled and laughed as George slipped free of his father Prince William's hand and made a bolt for it, only to be effortlessly re-captured.

Thousands from around the world who crammed into the paddock at Sandringham will doubtless remember those few touching minutes for the rest of their lives.

For as a new chapter in the life of the Royal Family began in a tiny Norfolk church, with nods to traditions which began in the time of Queen Victoria, they were all part of the occasion.

As the veteran royal-watcher Mary Relp noted afterwards, they truly did us all proud.

Worrying report on jail

A prison regime should be tough – but it should also be safe for both inmates and staff.

And so the report from the independent monitoring board on conditions at Norwich prison is worrying.

The volunteer team says staffing shortages, caused by budget cuts, are putting prisoners and staff at “unacceptable risk”.

Violent incidents and drug use have increased, there are delays for patients with serious mental health problems, and even food is described as “barely adequate”.

And, significantly, rehabilitation programmes for short-sentence prisoners are limited, says the report.

Prisons are not meant to be holiday camps – but they should have the resources to make people less likely to reoffend when they do take their place back in society.

You have a right to know

Last week the EDP brought a report, which contained severe criticism of the mental health trust for Norfolk and Suffolk, into the public domain.

Our journalists, in a careful and balanced way, told a story which will shock many.

We did so because of your right to know – reports like this need a public airing, so well-paid executives and our purse-holding politicians can be held to account.

In times of ongoing austerity we will be on alert – we are watching our Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire emergency services very carefully. More anon.

looking for GOD.com

And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise.
Daniel 2:21



tlnorwich.com

READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ A colourful kingfisher photographed at Letheringsett by Jessica Treasure. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit www.iwitness24.co.uk

Keeping us on our mettle over the spelling of words

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A reader wrote to the EDP during the winter pointing out that a car which had skidded off an icy road had mounted a kerb, not a curb as reported in the newspaper.

The letter-writer was right. A kerb is a stone edging to a raised path. A curb is a restraint on something.

Except that in the USA they do spell kerb “curb”. We regard curb and kerb as two different words; Americans think of them as being the same. Historically speaking, they're right.

In English, a curb was originally a strap bent round the jaw of a horse in order to restrain it – to curb it.

The word came from Old French courbe, which descended from Latin curvus, bend – also the source of our word curve.

By 1500, curb had also come to refer to a bent enclosed framework, and later it was applied to the edge of a garden bed, bent or not.

Then, by 1800, the meaning had been extended to include the edge of a street-side path.

This was a meaning so different from a strap round a horse's jaw that it's easy to see why it was no longer perceived as the same word; and it's not surprising that an



■ At one time the spelling of the word flower applied to the product of grinding wheat too.

Pictures: LIBRARY



alternative spelling developed for the newer meaning.

The same thing happened with flower and flour – they were originally the same word, too.

Flower was borrowed from Old French flor, meaning “flower, blossom”, and through time also came to mean “the best of its kind” – especially, by about 1250 or so, the best part of the wheat, ie wheat after the bran had been removed, the “flower of the wheat”.

Eventually this meaning became divorced from the “bloom” meaning, and started being spelt differently to avoid confusion.

Another example of the same phenome-

non is provided by metal and mettle – again, they used to be the same word. English acquired the word from Old French metal - “metal, material, stuff”.

In Shakespeare's time, the two spellings were used interchangeably, for both the literal sense of metallic stuff and the metaphorical sense of “stuff that a person is made of”, ie their character.

During the 1700s, the two spellings began to be used systematically to apply to the literal and metaphorical meanings respectively, and we now no longer think of them as being the same word.

And if we think of them as being different words, then they are different words.