

Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1870

Donating blood can help people like Emily lead full lives

For most people, getting a blood transfusion is something done in an emergency – after major surgery, childbirth or a serious accident.

But for some, getting the life-saving treatment is a part of their routine.

Emily Robb, from East Harling, is one of those people.

Her trips to hospital every three weeks have been a part of her schedule since she was born.

Six hours of transfusion treatment top up her red blood cells – what her family call “getting a battery charge”.

And those “battery charges” have allowed her to live a normal life.

That’s why she is appealing for people to come forward this Christmas to play their part – and we’re supporting her.

Donating blood is a quick and painless experience. Make an appointment online, drop in, roll up your sleeve and have a cup of tea. In an under an hour, you’ll have made a contribution that will save someone’s life.

A unit of blood, equivalent to around a pint, could go to helping more than one person, with the platelets, blood cells, white cells and plasma separated and put to use, depending on the patient.

NHS Blood and Transplant collects 1.8m units of blood each year. This Christmas they will work through 6,000 units a day.

But with Christmas taking centre stage, and illness and busy schedules holding up regular donors, the NHS are always braced for a slump at this time of year.

Let’s hope Emily’s plea – with our full backing – will stop that slump from happening.

Go to www.blood.co.uk to play your part.

Promoting healthy living

New figures showing that one in 10 Norfolk children are obese at the start of primary school are extremely worrying indeed.

And even more so is the fact that the obesity problem gets worse as children get older.

Our children are our future and it is important that we all play a role in helping them to live fit and healthy lives.

Schools have their part to play through promoting healthy meals at lunchtime, PE classes, personal, social and health education, and after-school activities.

And it is equally vital that children have positive role models at home too, with parents and other family members leading by example and encouraging children to eat balanced diets and enjoy an active lifestyle.

Working together, we can all help to make sure that the next generation have a bright and healthy tomorrow.

Amazing challenge

What a brave man Ben Hooper is as he prepares to swim across the Atlantic Ocean.

Swimming the 2,000-mile stretch from Senegal to Brazil must be among the world’s toughest challenges.

We are proud Norfolk will be helping him on his way, with Chris Gonco, from Brundall, on the support boat, and Tootega kayaks made in Attleborough helping to keep Mr Hooper safe from sharks.

We wish everyone the very best of luck.

He will yet fill your mouth with
laughter and your lips with shouts
of joy.

Job 8:21



www.tlcnorwich.com

READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ A gentle afternoon sun casts light and shade at Walsingham Abbey in this photograph by Fay Neale. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit www.iwitness24.co.uk

When using the wrong word is just not quite right

Peter
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Most of us would agree with the sentiments expressed in the title of the famous novel by the late UEA Professor, Malcolm Bradbury: *Eating People is Wrong*. It’s not a controversial point of view.

But this does remind us that there are different types of wrong. First, there’s the Lisbon is the capital of Spain and $3 \times 3 = 8$ kind of wrong. As the Oxford English Dictionary says, these are wrong in the sense of “not in consonance with facts or truth; incorrect, false, mistaken”.

It’s inherently true that Lisbon is the capital of Portugal, and that $3 \times 3 = 9$.

If these things weren’t true, the world as we know it would be a very different place.

Then there’s the hitting someone on the



■ Lisbon, capital of Portugal.

head and taking their money kind of wrong. Eating people is presumably this second kind of wrong, though even worse. This is wrong in the OED sense of “deviating from equity, justice, or goodness; not morally right or equitable; unjust, perverse”.

Sadly, quite a lot of people also seem to think about our language in terms of right and wrong. If you say “we done it”, that’s wrong because it should be “did”.

But what kind of wrong is this? It’s not inherently true that the past tense of do is did. It would make no difference to anything important if all English speakers said “we done it” rather than “we did it” – in fact, most of them do already! And saying “we done it” is hardly deviating from equity, justice or goodness.

So perhaps it’s the putting your elbows on the table kind of wrong? This is what the OED describes as “contrary to, or at variance with, what one approves or regards as right”.

So basically it’s wrong because, according to some people, it’s not right. This doesn’t really get us very far: who are those people, and what authority do they have to say that putting your elbows on the table, or using a grammatical form which is a natural part of the dialects spoken by millions of people, is wrong?

The fact is that, though “we done it” is not part of the Standard English dialect, it is the natural and correct form in the grammatical systems of the dialects spoken by a majority of native English speakers around the world, including our Norfolk dialect. That’s not the same as wrong.