

# Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1870

## Government sending out wrong message on resettlement cash

The plight of refugees arriving at Europe's borders having, in some cases, risked life and limb in a desperate attempt to make better lives for themselves and their loved ones cannot have failed to move even the hardest of hearts.

In the face of the worst migrant crisis seen in Europe since the Second World War, prime minister David Cameron offered help, the British government agreeing to resettle 20,000 refugees fleeing war-torn Syria.

A petition with 1,700 names urged Norfolk to offer sanctuary to at least some of the refugees and in response Norfolk's local councils offered to resettle 50.

Sadly, the cost of that resettlement, including the infrastructure and specialist support services needed to ensure the refugees integrate successfully, has since proved a sticking point between Norfolk's councils and the government.

Now, a report prepared for Norfolk County Council's policy and resources committee due to meet next week, estimates the cost to be £1.4m, £400,000 more than the government estimate.

Norfolk estimates a cost per refugee of £28,500 while the government's figure is £20,500, leaving local politicians, who have a responsibility to local taxpayers, in the unenviable position of having to make ends meet.

For the government to fail to meet the financial burden of the cost of resettlement at a time when it is imposing severe financial cuts on local authorities and the services they provide sends out the wrong message and leaves local politicians caught between the devil and the deep blue sea.

## A sporting boost

Whatever your views on the merits of a National Lottery, the cash it generates has given an enormous helping hand to many worthy projects in our region.

The latest recipients of Sport England grants include The Shed skate park in King's Lynn and North Walsham Gymnastics Club.

Lynn's hefty £123,000 will insulate a building so that it no longer has to shut for about a month each year because of damp.

It will also help pay for space to house a DJ, classroom, café and shop.

And North Walsham's £51,000 means a club which has for a decade been a victim of its own success can at last afford to move into a dedicated new home and take 250 children off its waiting list.

Funding cuts have led to the loss of many youth clubs and other community activities for young people in recent years.

These crucial grants are therefore an especially-welcome fillip for two deserving youth organisations which can boast that rare combination of being both very popular – and active.

## The true joy of angling

Percy Norton, who's still a dab hand with a fly rod at the age of 102, is living proof that angling is a pastime for all ages.

But behind the scenes the sport's leaders fear its ranks are becoming dominated by senior citizens, as youngsters desert the riverbanks in droves.

Now officials are launching a social media campaign, in a bid to make its tweedy image a little more 21st century in the hope of attracting them back.

Yet many who fish do so to escape such all-pervading modern distractions, preferring to spend their leisure time watching a float or fly instead of a computer screen. Is this not one of the pastime's true joys?

## READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ Boats lying at rest at low tide at Morston Quay were caught on camera by Simon Bamber. 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 meaning of duzzy is still intact after 1,200 years

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The "Blickling Homilies" is the name given to a collection of 18 ancient sermons which were composed in the late 10th century, probably around AD 970, and perhaps in Worcester.

They were based on earlier Latin sources, but they were written in the Old English (Anglo-Saxon) language; and they constitute one of the oldest surviving collections of English-language homilies in existence.

They are called the Blickling Homilies because they used to be housed at Blickling Hall, near Aylsham; but if you want to see them these days, you'll have to travel a lot further than that. In 1938, they were acquired by American collector John H Scheide, and are now in the Scheide Library at Princeton University in the USA.

The homilies are said to be "an important literary milestone in the early evolution of the English prose", and the language they are written in is extremely interesting.

If you have never seen what Old English looks like, you might be interested to look at this short extract from the Blickling Homilies:

'Gepenc, þu dysega mon, hwæt yfela



■ Blickling Hall used to house the Blickling Homilies.

Picture: MARK BULLIMORE

bebead Drihten æfre.'

A literal word-by-word translation of this into Modern English would go: "Think, thou foolish man, what evils commanded Lord ever", meaning approximately: "Think, oh foolish man: what evils has the Lord ever ordered to be performed?"

One point of great interest here for people in modern Blickling, and everywhere else in Norfolk, is the Anglo-Saxon word dysig, first attested in AD 825, meaning foolish or stupid. The same word occurs in the Anglo-Saxon Bible in the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins, where it is written of the virgins that "fif wæren dysige and fif gleawe", which means "five were stupid and five clever".

We can't help but be reminded here of the Norfolk dialect word duzzy, which means... foolish or stupid. Maybe some readers have even been called a "duddy fule" in their time. The 1893 publication "Broad Norfolk: being a series of articles and letters reprinted from the Eastern Daily Press", edited by Harry Cozens-Hardy, cites the expression "duddy fule" as meaning "a bigger fool than common"! It also contains the very nice admonition not to "stand a-garpin there, bor, like a duddy mawkin".

This similarity between dysig and duzzy is not a coincidence. Our word duzzy is a direct continuation of Old English dysig, which has come down to us over 1,200 years with its ancient meaning totally intact.