

Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1870

Ten years on, the dangers on the streets endure

It is hard to believe 10 years have passed since Steve Wright carried out his killing spree against young prostitutes in Ipswich.

For those directly affected, the anniversary will revive feelings of desolation that have never truly gone away.

For the rest of us, it will trigger dark memories of the most infamous set of murders ever to happen in East Anglia.

Today, we extend our heartfelt sympathies to the families of the five young women who were killed: women who deserve to be defined and remembered not as prostitutes, but as people of great potential who were robbed of their chance to fulfil it.

Ten years on, two things prompt further anguish.

The first is that Wright has not admitted the murders: a cruel decision that makes things even harder for the families of Tania Nicol, Gemma Adams, Anneli Alderton, Paula Clennell and Annette Nicholls.

The second is that – after an understandable post-killings period of fearful caution – many women are still putting themselves in highly vulnerable situations on the streets of Norwich and Ipswich.

Most have been driven to it through desperation sparked by drug addiction and chaotic lifestyles. It is a tragedy that such factors are still at work in society in 2016.

It is a blessing that there are wonderful support groups working hard to protect and advise the prostitutes. But they can only do so much, and the danger of more murders looms heavily.

The best legacy from the Ipswich killings would be for that danger to disappear.

Not good enough, City

Fourth in the Championship, but “giving up” and “embarrassing” at Brighton on Saturday - something does not add up at Norwich City.

Matches will always be won and lost, but what will trouble the fans – as it so clearly did the captain Russell Martin – was how the white flag was waved.

Running out of luck or being beaten by a better team are part of the game, but a lack of effort is unacceptable. The supporters, particularly those who travelled to the south coast, deserve so much better.

However, we are not at the point where a drama needs to be talked into a crisis, as has happened at so many other clubs in the feral atmosphere swirling around football managers.

Calls for Alex Neil's head are surely premature, bearing in mind City's league position and the quality of their squad. But there will now be even closer scrutiny of the players when next they take to the field.

Nothing short of 100pc will do in this league, where toil earns teams the right to entertain.

When Leeds come to Norwich on Saturday, we want to see that in abundance.

Have a batty Halloween

Amidst all the creepy costumes and scary pumpkins, it's nice to have our very own happy Halloween story to tell.

The tiny long-eared bat that was trapped in a King's Lynn house was probably haunted by nasty nightmares of ghost and ghoulies.

Thankfully, the only things that loomed into view were RSPCA rescuers, who are here to help all creatures great and small.

Now the minute mammal is piling on weight (up from 6g to 7g) thanks to a very spooky diet of more than its own weight each day in mealworms.

This winged wonder is having a very happy Halloween. We hope you all do too.

READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ The deer at Holkham Hall, as seen by reader Karen Bailey. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit www.iwitness24.co.uk

It's quite understandable why some Americans might find the use of this word rather confusing

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Long ago, when I first took my American girlfriend to meet my parents and she was shown some of my father's paintings, she said that she thought they were “quite nice”.

Dad wasn't too pleased – to him it sounded like damning with faint praise. But she didn't mean it like that. The problem was that Americans can use the word quite in a way which is rather different from the way in which we use it. Quite is a complex word. If we say that something is quite awful, we mean that it's extremely awful. If we say that somebody is quite wrong, we are claiming that they're absolutely wrong. But if we say that something is quite nice, we don't mean that it's extremely or absolutely nice. We are saying that it's somewhat, rather, fairly nice.

The word quite is historically related to quit and quiet, and comes down to us via Norman French from Latin quietus ‘at rest’ – which is of course also where our word quiet comes from. Latin quietus became Old French quite, which meant ‘resting, free, at liberty, clear’. In the Anglo-Norman French used in England, it also meant ‘without opposition’. This was



borrowed into English in the 15th century, and when it was used as an adverb modifying an adjective, it was very easy for the ‘clearly’ meaning to turn into ‘thoroughly’. So quite brilliant came to mean thoroughly brilliant, and quite good meant totally good.

The weaker sense of quite signifying ‘somewhat, rather, fairly’ arose very much later. It began being used in the 19th century, and then only in Britain; this meaning has never really developed in America. So when my girlfriend said “quite good”, she really did mean “very good”, just as we would if we said “quite splendid”.

The 19th-century partial shift in



■ So is Sandi Toksvig quite good as the new host of QI (Quite Interesting), having replaced Stephen Fry? A perfect illustration of the complicated meanings of ‘quite’. Quite.

Pictures: ANTHONY DEVLIN/PA, ARCH

meaning might seem to be rather strange. How can a word go from meaning ‘totally’ to ‘partially’? According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the change of meaning was a weakening from ‘certainly having the specified character in (at least) some degree’ to ‘having the specified character in some degree (though not completely)’.

The difficulty is that with some adjectives, like brilliant, British people tend to use quite in the earlier stronger meaning, whereas with other adjectives, like good and nice, we tend to use it with the newer weaker meaning. You can't blame the Americans if they find that confusing.