

# Eastern Daily Press

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## Our GPs' problems mean they may not be solution to crisis

Theresa May has a reputation for sticking to her guns.

It was a characteristic many ministers discovered when they came up against her as home secretary.

She reiterated her commitment to controlling immigration – but vitally acknowledged the concerns of many businesses about getting the skills and labour they need.

So it was not a surprise that she insisted her seven day pledge is still on the table in her first interview with us.

Few would disagree that patients with less serious ailments need an alternative to Accident and Emergency out of hours, and indeed to be able to access healthcare before they need more expensive emergency treatment.

The onus is also on us to think about turning to a pharmacist or a GP, if an appointment is available.

But therein lies the crux of the issue.

GPs may well be part of the solution to the NHS crisis – if they were not under unprecedented pressure too.

Vacancy figures, demand statistics and comments from family doctors across our region suggest that as things stand they will struggle to provide the solution to the Accident and Emergency crisis which politicians crave.

We desperately need more of them, and more funding for them.

The prime minister struck a more conciliatory tone in her interview with us than a more strident Number 10 briefing.

But the fact remains that many GPs – who will ultimately be on the frontline of this pledge – may not be able to deliver.

The challenges of our NHS will not be solved through a soundbite. We need realism.

## Tough decision on care

For some time now the region's charitable sector has highlighted with growing concern the number of rough sleepers and homeless people in the area.

There are naturally many factors that contribute to this – some of which are easier to change than others.

But today members of Norfolk County Council's adult social care committee face a difficult decision.

While a final decision on the planned cuts will not be made yet, the committee's recommendation will certainly add clout to the debate when next year's budget is set in February. The council has had much funding withdrawn as part of the austere financial policy adopted by the Conservative government.

This has come at a time when demand for services has risen, both within social care and the NHS. The latter has been affected by cuts to social care, and the situation is becoming critical.

Every cut that is made may contribute to this further, yet the council must live within its means.

Any decision must take the wider social care and health system into account, as an isolated approach will merely result in greater challenges emerging elsewhere.

## Brewery coming home

Brands and businesses from Norfolk are not easily forgotten.

Such is the powerful identity and sense of belonging that so many of our county's residents feel here, that long-serving establishments in the region are held dear in our hearts.

And that is why the return of brewing Bullards beer in Norwich is delightful news – whether you're an ale fan or not.

It is a name which has long been associated with the city, and now the brewery is set to boost its presence further.

Here's to at least another 180 years.

## READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

# iwitness24



■ David Brooker took this picture of Bell's marina and Broom Boats in Brundall. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit [www.iwitness24.co.uk](http://www.iwitness24.co.uk)

## Lennon's wordplay reveals different meanings of have

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John Lennon's moving 1970 song called Mother begins: "Mother, you had me, but I never had you".

These lyrics, as so often with Lennon's writing, are rather clever. The words play on the fact that the verb "to have" in English has two different meanings.

We understand very well what the different senses are here: his mother had him, in the sense of giving birth to him; but he never had her, in the sense of having her around him. John Lennon was brought up by his aunt; and then his mother was killed in an accident when he was 17.

These two different functions of the verb have are labelled "dynamic have" and "stative have" by grammarians of English. Dynamic have involves some type of action or event, as in having coffee with your breakfast, or having a good time, or having a shower – or having a baby. Stative have implies possession: it describes some kind of state or situation, as in having blue eyes, or having a new car, or having a cat – or having a mother.

Grammatically, these two haves behave differently in the traditional English of England. When asking a question involving stative have, we form the question by



■ John Lennon, who penned the song Mother in tribute to his mum Julia, who was killed in an accident when he was 17.

Picture: PA

starting it with the verb have itself, as for example in "Have you (got) any coffee in the cupboard?" (Younger people normally put in the got, but older Norfolk people don't.)

But when asking a question involving dynamic have, we start the sentence with "do", as in "Do you have (any) coffee with your breakfast?"

If you were to form a question based on stative have and start it with do, you might actually be misunderstood. For instance, if you said "Do you have coffee in the cupboard?", you might get a reply, at least from an older English person, along the lines that a cupboard is a pretty odd place to drink your coffee in.

But that would not be true of the USA.

Americans don't make this grammatical distinction, and they are quite capable of asking "Do you have beer in the fridge?"

This way of forming questions with stative have is becoming rather more common in many parts of England amongst younger people nowadays.

For the time being, though, older British people will still understand the joke about the Englishwoman who was asked by an American "Do you have children?" and replied "Frequently!"

■ Prof Trudgill will be taking a break from his regular Monday EDP column to carry out research for new academic works. We hope he will be returning in a few months.