

SERVING THE COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1870

## Getting people into work is a goal which benefits all

At best, having policy challenged in the courts is a sign that a government is not afraid of taking tough, difficult decisions. At worst, it shows those decisions are poorly thought out.

So, under which of these two poles does yesterday's Court of Appeal decision fall; the one which saw unemployed Cait Reilly challenge the premise for the government's Work Programme?

Under the scheme she had been pushed to undertake unpaid work at Poundland in order to receive out-of-work benefits. But she refused to do so, claiming it was akin to slave labour and that it breached European human rights law.

This was rejected by the court. However, the judge did accept that parts of the regulation underpinning the Work Programme were erroneous and therefore her case was carried.

Ministers said they would appeal the decision and that, regardless of the outcome, the Work Programme would go on.

Despite its apparent technical faults the general premise of the Work Programme is correct. People who cannot work should be supported by the state. People who can work, should not.

Furthermore, they should be provided every opportunity and all the required support to do so. If they refuse, they should not arbitrarily expect financial support.

For this reason it is right that the Work Programme be reaffirmed by the government, though ministers must now task officials to do what work is necessary to rewrite parts of the underlying regulation highlighted by the judge.

Technicalities aside, it is about getting people into work. Stay focused on that goal and we all benefit.

## Be a 'dementia friend'

There must be nothing more frightening than the feeling that your sense, your memory or your mind is slipping away from you.

But thousands of people go through it every year in the UK when they start to suffer from dementia; many of them unaware of exactly what is happening to them.

There is help and advice available for those suffering from the condition and for their families, but with people tending not to talk about it and with many cases going undisguised it is not always taken.

The Alzheimer's Society recently released figures suggesting there were more than 8,000 people in Norfolk alone with undiagnosed dementia.

We encourage readers to undertake one of the "dementia friend" sessions offered by the charity to find out what life is really like for those with this difficult condition.

## Youngster's courage

Children never cease to amaze us with their resilience in times of immense difficulty, and young Watton teenager Deryn Blackwell is a perfect example.

He has faced not only leukaemia but is also now battling an extremely rare cancer called Langerhans cell sarcoma.

As he heads off to a children's hospital in Bristol he knows he will be isolated from his family for months, will have his body put through some excruciating and exhausting treatment and faces a lifetime of tests and potential side-effects.

But this young boy has shown incredible bravery and maturity beyond his 13 years, looking to the future and planning to become a doctor when he is older.

His courage is an example to us all and we wish him all the best for a full recovery.

### WORDS FOR LIFE

Restore to me the joy of your Salvation.  
Psalm 51:12



FRANCES CRICKMORE

**LIGHT FANTASTIC:** Swans in the setting sun at Bungay. If you would like to submit a picture for this feature, visit [www.iwitness24.co.uk](http://www.iwitness24.co.uk)

## Why we still 'dew different' after all these years

PETER TRUDGILL



The national census shows that Norwich is the least religious place in the country, 43pc of us professing to have no religion compared to the national average of 25pc. According to a recent leader column, the EDP finds this 'rather curious'.

But it isn't really. Norfolk people are admonished to "dew different". We don't much like to conform to what other people think is normal. When our team were bottom of the third flight of English football, stubborn Norfolk supporters still turned up at Carrow Road in their many thousands. Norwich was known as the place where large numbers of women went to the pub, although that wasn't respectable elsewhere. And as the Rev Robert Forby wrote in his 1830 book, "we so stubbornly maintain that the first and third person are of the same form, 'I love, he love'" in our dialect.

Norfolk has always been rather oppositional. Kett's famous rebellion is honoured in the names of pubs and streets – and one rather steep Hill. During the Civil War, Norfolk opposed the Royalist establishment and supported the forces of the Parliament. And, like Nelson disobeying orders at Copenhagen, we don't much like being told what to do. Our Horatio didn't actually say "Doon't you come along hair with none-a that ol'squit", but that was probably what he was thinking. "You can allus tell a Norfolkman, but y'can't tell'm



**GOING AGAINST THE GRAIN:** Kett's famous rebellion is honoured locally in pub and street names.

much" is an old joke, but a true one.

Usually, though, it's been the people of Norwich itself who've "done different" the most. The farm labourers of East Anglia were the subject of a book called "The Deferential Worker" – my country grandfather believed in "salut'n" – touching his forelock to the boss. But my city grandmother lay down on the tram lines during the General Strike and stopped the Public Schoolboy strike-breakers from driving through.

Norwich rebelliousness goes back to the 1272 attack on the cathedral: buildings were burnt down, monks killed, the priory sacked. Maybe the influx of nonconformist Strangers from the Low Countries helped

maintain this oppositional mind-set. Perhaps centuries of being the underdog number-two city to London's number-one helped too. If London did the one thing, we did the other. Even today, when Norfolk – and the whole United Kingdom – are governed by the Conservatives, Norwich doesn't have a single Conservative councillor.

In the 1600s, rebelliousness meant being pious, anti-Royalist, religious believers, and that's what the citizens of Norwich were. Now it doesn't, and they're not.

■ Peter Trudgill is president of Friends of Norfolk Dialect.

■ What do you think? Contact us at [EDPletters@archant.co.uk](mailto:EDPletters@archant.co.uk)