

# Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1870

## High time to shine a light on Britain's energy 'time bomb'

It always goes the same way when things are already a bit tight; suddenly something unexpected comes along – the car breaks down, the central heating packs up – and hits you right in the wallet.

That's just the way life goes; unseen disasters come along and you have to deal with them the best you can. But it is altogether harder to swallow when you did see it coming down the line, but did nothing about it.

That is exactly what appears to have happened with the UK's energy market. Back in 2009 Keith Tovey, from the University of East Anglia, warned in the pages of the EDP that the country's energy provision was in a parlous state.

He wasn't the only one. Sift back through Hansard records and you will find that MPs of all colour have been raising the issue in the House of Commons for years.

The problem back then was that ageing power plants were beginning to close and not enough was being done to switch the country to new technology and so we were beginning to rely more on imported gas.

That made us all susceptible to international market fluctuations and we consumers have ended up footing the rising bill to keep the lights on.

The problem has only become worse since with consecutive administrations failing in their duty to address the upward march of our utility bills.

The key is to draw our energy from a range of different sources that we in this country control. The current government says it is acting to do just that.

But any actions are still not happening soon enough.

If the government's measures are to ease pressure on our household budgets any time soon, they must start making up for lost time and double the pace of reform.

## Great men of Norfolk

It is with sadness that the Eastern Daily Press today records the deaths of two of Norfolk's great men, but with fondness and pride that we remember their lives. Michael Falcon CBE was the High Steward of Great Yarmouth for nearly 30 years, a great promoter of the borough and diehard supporter of local groups like Great Yarmouth Minster and Caister's independent lifeboat.

Meanwhile Professor Keith Clayton was an internationally-acknowledged expert on global warming who helped to shape the climate change agenda. He was the founding dean of the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of East Anglia in 1967. He also created the renowned Climate Change Unit four years later.

He too was active in Norfolk life as a local councillor, chairman of Broadland Housing Association and a member of the Broads Authority.

Both have made a huge contribution to our county and further afield, and have set an example that we can all aspire to.

## A praiseworthy act

When the culprits responsible for smashing more than 30 window panes at a 81-year-old's home are believed to be local young people, negative comments about "the youth of today" are almost inevitable.

But the City College youngsters on the Prince's Trust Team Programme have done a fantastic job of proving not all of them deserve to be tarred with the same brush. Their efforts – both in terms of the clean-up they have carried out at Alan George's Grade II listed house in Martham and fundraising to get the cash to buy the materials they needed – should be more than enough to restore our faith. These hard-working young people deserve praise just as much as those responsible for the damage deserve criticism.

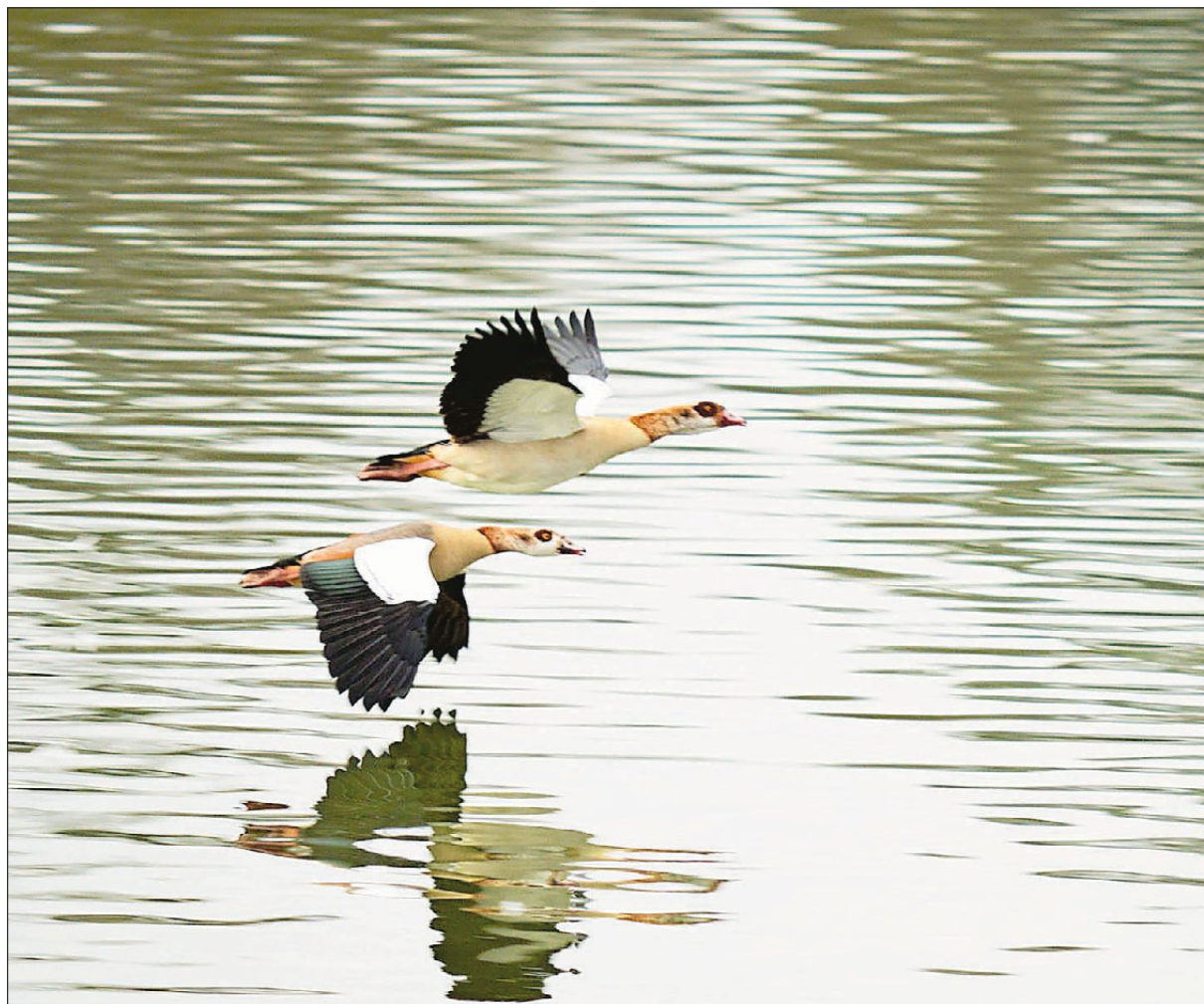
### WORDS FOR LIFE

I will put my trust  
in Him.

Hebrews 2:13



### READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY



DANNY SHUREY

**FLYING LOW:** Geese are captured in flight at Eccles. If you would like to submit a picture for this feature, visit [www.iwitness24.co.uk](http://www.iwitness24.co.uk)

## What's in a name? Well, quite a lot, actually

### PETER TRUDGILL

email: [newsdesk@archant.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk@archant.co.uk)



English-language surnames always mean something – or at least they used to.

There were four major sources for our surnames. Some of them were occupational names, like Turner.

Others were patronymics, where sons were named after their fathers – like Jackson and Howson (son of Hugh).

There were nicknames, like Ruddy and Fox and Bunn (from French bon, good).

And there were place names, like Barnett and Whittaker – there are a number of white-field or wheat-field place-names in Britain – and Pilkington, a place in Lancashire.

These names were generally the place of origin of people who had moved elsewhere – there would have been no point in calling people still in Pilkington by that name because then everybody there would have had the same name...

Surnames didn't really get established in England until the late Middle Ages – that's when names started getting passed on from one generation to another. Boys started being called Turner or Jackson because their father was called Turner or Jackson, not because they were turners themselves, or because their father was called Jack.

I keep being asked about my own name – and I think it's quite interesting from a dialect point of view. It's actually an occupational name like Turner. The



**THE NAME GAME:** Norwich City players Bradley Johnson and Anthony Pilkington have traditional English surnames – as do many of their team mates including keeper John Ruddy.

original form was Threadgold, the name given to men who sewed the vestments for the clergy. They literally threaded gold.

Over the centuries, the second syllable of the name was reduced in pronunciation, giving Threadg'll.

And then there was a special Norfolk/Suffolk dialect factor. Just as our dialect has troshen for threshing and troshel for threshold, so Threadg'll was Trodg'll in this part of the world.

All Trudgills are descended from an 18th century Harleston man called William Trodgrill.

And we are also obviously the result of a spelling mistake. Most people were illiterate

in those days, so how your name was spelt depended on the vicar listening to what you said your name was, and then doing his best to write it down, hence the 'u' rather than an 'o'. Anyway, that's why my name has a 'hard g' in it.

In the old days, I never had to tell anybody in Norwich that.

People who had grown up in the area were used to us – there were enough of us around – but now incomers don't know and have to guess. And that's also why my name doesn't have an H in it. Even if people occasionally think it does.

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