

Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1870

Get well soon Ma'am, you've a special place in Norfolk hearts

The Queen has a special place in the hearts of many in Norfolk. With a home at Sandringham, she's regarded as an honorary Norfolk woman – one of our own.

That was made abundantly clear over Christmas, during the Royal Family's stay in the county.

It was bitterly cold on Christmas Day – yet the Queen spoke to every one of the 50 or so children who had queued outside the little carr stone church at Sandringham to give her cards and presents.

Despite her advancing years, the Queen still has time for Norfolk and its people. No other part of Britain enjoys such a close relationship with the Monarch as our county.

Fortunately, it sounds as though her admission to the King Edward VII hospital in London with symptoms of gastroenteritis is for precautionary reasons, rather than anything particularly serious.

But it still comes a shock that something can stop The Queen. It's a rare day when she cancels an engagement, so we have got to the point where we take her indomitable spirit for granted.

That makes it easy for us to forget that The Queen is an 86-year-old woman, so few and far between have been her health scares.

And that, despite her workload, which still takes in a remarkable amount of work for somebody of her years. Take the Diamond Jubilee celebrations last year.

It bucketed down with rain and was freezing cold on that June weekend, yet she stoically stood for the best part of four hours on the Royal Barge – a testament to British spirit.

That's just one of the many reasons why The Queen is regarded with so much affection. It's no wonder so many in our region will be wishing she gets well soon.

A sea of opportunity

It is, quite literally, a sea of opportunity, which has the potential to create jobs and business opportunities for Norfolk and Suffolk.

That's how the North Sea is viewed by those in the energy sector in the East who want to make the most of its various resources.

And they will come together at the Norfolk Showground tomorrow and Wednesday to discuss just how businesses can capitalise on the opportunities presented.

From drilling for gas, to creating wind farms, it can be easy to forget just how many people locally depend on the energy industry to make a living.

The east's energy sector employs more than 103,000 people, and generates more than £12.9bn – while 30pc of the country's gas is still sourced through the Bacton terminal in north Norfolk.

Those are big figures and, whatever your views on the merits or otherwise of wind farms and the use of fossil fuels, it's clear that many in the region need the energy sector to be vibrant and thriving.

Determined to succeed

If you want evidence that disability need not be a barrier, then look no further than two young people featured in today's EDP.

Fifteen-year-old Daniel Bullen is hoping to represent Great Britain at table tennis, while Tom Garrod, 23, is hoping to win a second stint as a county councillor.

The pair have very different ambitions, but they have two things in common. One is that they both have cerebral palsy and the second is that they have not let that prevent them doing what they want to do.

It's wonderful to hear how Daniel's confidence, balance and school work has been transformed by table tennis.

We wish him all the best in his bid to become a Paralympian.

WORDS FOR LIFE

My whole being will exclaim 'Who is like you Lord'.
Psalm 35:10



READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



EVE STONEBURGH

GOING, GOING, GONE: Sunset over Thetford Forest, taken from the Mundford Road roundabout. If you would like to submit a picture for this feature, visit www.iwitness24.co.uk

To 't' or not to 't'? Tha's a Norfolk question

PETER TRUDGILL

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Most people in this country know what a glottal stop is. Our schools don't teach much about phonetics, the scientific study of speech sounds – they ought to. But the glottal stop is famous because lots of people (Gillian Shepherd for one) say they don't like it – even though they use it themselves. They hate it particularly in words like “better”, “city” – ‘be’er, ci’y’. If you say “Po’er Heigham” they call that “dropping your t’s”.

The glottal stop is a perfectly normal consonant. Lots of the world's languages – have it – Arabic, Danish, Persian, Mohawk, Hebrew, Maltese, Tahitian.... There's no letter for it in our alphabet because Latin didn't have the sound. In Polynesian languages it's written as a backward apostrophe, as in Hawai'i.

A “stop” is a consonant made by totally

blocking off the flow of air from the mouth – ‘p’ is a “bilabial stop” because the block is formed by the two lips. With the glottal stop, the block is made in the larynx by closing the vocal cords – and the larynx is part of the glottis.

In English, the glottal stop is not a consonant in its own right. It's a way of pronouncing the consonant ‘t’ – though according to rather strict rules.

In Norfolk we use it as the way of pronouncing ‘t’ before another consonant, like in “Scotland” – try saying it! But you can't use it at the beginning of a word, unless the first syllable is unstressed. So you can't pronounce “cup of tea” with a glottal stop, but you can say “see you ‘omorra!”.

It's increasingly common before a vowel, as in “abou’ eleven”. But it's quite wrong to claim that that's “dropping your ‘t’s”. If you drop the ‘t’ from “beating”, you get “being”, not “bea’ing”!

It's not ‘lazy’ either – it probably actually requires more energy.

So what's to dislike? Nothing, actually. But languages change all the time, especially their phonetics. And there are always people around who don't like anything new. The glottal stop as a way of pronouncing ‘t’ is an innovation dating back about 150 years. It probably started in Norfolk – studies of rural dialects spoken by people born in the 1870s showed that it was more prevalent here than anywhere else.

The change is a fascinating development for language scientists to observe – and here we are in the vanguard! So much for the idea that Norfolk speech is “a bi’ yesterday”...

■ What do you think? Email: EDPletters@archant.co.uk