

# Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1870

## Constructive additions to the welfare reform debate are welcome

It was the Labour Party which began the process of implementing proposals by Lord Beveridge – dubbed father of the welfare state – when it ousted Winston Churchill from power in 1945.

His plans included a national system of benefits to provide “social security” so that the population would be protected from the “cradle to the grave”. The new system – partly built on the national insurance scheme set up by Lloyd George in 1911 – saw people still in work making weekly contributions, along with employers.

It is unsurprising therefore that the Labour Party should look to history as it grapples with the welfare debate. It emerged yesterday that Labour is considering proposals for a radical shake-up whereby benefit payments to those out of work or on low incomes would vary according to their past contributions to the state.

This is a change from last week when the Labour Party struggled to lay out a credible alternative to the government’s welfare reforms. It appeared to do no more than provide blanket opposition to the changes which will admittedly hit millions of households.

The party was also quick to criticise chancellor George Osborne for questioning if the taxpayer should be “subsidising” lives like the father of 17 “shameless” Mick Philpott – who killed his children in a house fire in Derby while trying to frame his mistress.

This weekend the tone has changed. Labour’s deputy leader Harriet Harman’s admitted it was understandable that workers feel “resentful” about benefits claimants.

While the ideas are still to be costed, it is welcome news that the party appears to be making constructive suggestions and is moving the debate away from mere political point scoring and recriminations.

## Claims must make sense

The £70m bill to the taxpayer for police compensation claims across the country emerges after PC Kelly Jones sparked widespread incredulity for her action against Theford garage owner Steve Jones.

Fears we have a compensation culture lacking common sense came after the PC asked for £50,000 from burglary victim Mr Jones. She said he made no attempt to light the area or warn her about the step when she went to investigate. In the latest twist in the tale it turns out PC Jones has made a separate claim against her force after suffering a knee injury when she was a passenger in a patrol car involved in a crash last year.

Most would admit the police car claim is a world away from the one against the garage owner. There can be valid grounds for compensation from an employer and PC Jones may well be within her rights on this one. However, her actions against the garage owner do not engender sympathy.

We are, however, left wondering just what incidents lie behind the taxpayers’ £70m hit.

One final issue – what happens if anyone calling 999 asks if PC Jones is attending – because they are worried about any claims that might ensue?

## We will remember them

A feature we should be really proud of in our towns and villages is the local war memorial.

They stand in our market squares, churchyards and village greens and list the countless local heroes who served in the world wars and other conflicts.

There is a story behind every single name. But in the vast majority of cases they are not revealed. So we are touched by the work going on at Reepham to reveal more about the local men on the town memorial who served in the first world war.

The man behind the project was inspired as the roll of honour was read out on Remembrance Day last year – and we hope other communities will follow suit and ensure these servicemen are cherished forever.

### WORDS FOR LIFE

Don't envy evil people or desire their company.  
Proverbs 24:1



### READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



HARRY READ

BRANCHING OUT: A bit of warmth brings out the best in all of us... with colourful effect for this proud and fluffy goldfinch standing elegantly in the spring sunshine. If you would like to submit a picture for this feature, visit [www.iwitness24.co.uk](http://www.iwitness24.co.uk)

## I k-now they're doing what comes g-naturally

PETER TRUDGILL

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



Am I alone in suffering from how deplorably badly young people are speaking these days?

It is quite shocking to listen to them gabbling away to each other on the streets.

Far too many of them have become so careless and slovenly in their pronunciation that it's hard to even understand what they are saying sometimes, though perhaps, from the way some of them look, that might be just as well.

The fact is that they seem to communicate in a series of grunts half the time.

Some of these young people have become so sloppy in their language that they can't even be bothered to pronounce all their letters properly.

Have you heard how they are saying the word “knife”, for instance?

You must have noticed how more and more teenagers are actually pronouncing it nowadays without the letter k!

I am sure that all right-thinking people will agree with me in finding that this sounds really horribly ugly. Dropping your k's is a deplorable and careless modern habit.

Maybe they think it sounds really cool – all very 17th century I'm sure! – but when I hear youngsters pronouncing “knee” as “nee”, I can't help shouting at them “don't you know that there's a k in knee! K-nee, k-nee, k-nee!”.



IN BARD TASTE: Shockingly, even the up-and-coming Mr Shakespeare has recently sneaked in a pun on 'nave' and 'knave'.

Many of these youths are not content with just dropping their k's, either. They can't even be bothered to say their g's in word like “gnaw” and “gnat”!

Is it really so much effort?

Happily, the better class of citizens do not descend to these depths.

We must be glad that the people at the court of King James have not yet lowered themselves to pronouncing “knock” without the k!

No, it is the lower classes who are guilty, but we must make sure to band together to stop this k-dropping plague from infecting the speech of the offspring of our

more important citizens before it is too late.

Even Mr Shakespeare thinks it is in order to make a pun out of “nave” and “knave”.

Can you imagine what would happen if everybody ended up pronouncing “knight” as if it were the same as “night”!

And if everybody confused “knew” and “new”?

Where would we be then? Bewilderment and chaos will be the result. It will be the end of civilisation as we no it, and the nation will be brought to its knees.

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