

Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1870

Calling community groups – this time it really could be you

Since the National Lottery began in 1994, we have enjoyed reporting on the thousands of local good causes that have benefited from grants.

So it is a great privilege to be able to move from simply reporting to playing a part in distributing the cash.

The Big EDP Lottery Fund is designed to ensure that even more money gets to the groups that deserve it. And we know that there are so many out there, which act as forces for good in our communities.

We are grateful to the Big Lottery Fund for allowing us to make this clarion call to community groups to bid for a share of £250,000.

And what makes this partnership even better is that it is not just another case of an organisation divvying out cash: this is an opportunity for all of you, our readers, to have your say in who gets the grants.

Your votes will decide which are the worthiest causes, which will no doubt prove a tricky task as you try to choose between the expected flurry of innovative ideas and worthy projects.

But none of this will work unless people get their heads together to come up with the ideas.

So today we urge you all to think laterally and literally about how your communities could be improved. Be innovative, be creative, but most of all, be sure that what you come up with strengthens the heartbeat of the community that you cherish.

When you spend a pound on a National Lottery ticket, you trust in luck. This time, you all have the chance to influence whether you get a slice of the cash cake.

New Cold War is chilling

While the Cold War has long since thawed from its frozen worst, the legacy of mistrust between Russia and the US is clear to see.

With Vladimir Putin threatening to arm the Syrian government and Barack Obama keen to arm the rebels, the G8 summit promises some icy exchanges between the old enemies. And it is hard to see how they can find common ground.

But that is what they must do. Helped by prime minister David Cameron, the two sides must cut out any macho posturing and remember that the greater good is served by cordial relations. To that end, they both need to think long and hard before getting directly involved in a conflict in a region whose global influence is inversely proportionate to its size. Right now, the war is contained. The world should worry if that situation changes.

Death is crying shame

Nature can be cruel. But it is not often that it is played out with so many eyes watching it.

That is why the common occurrence of a peregrine falcon chick dying has caused so much sadness.

Thousands of people have made a strong connection with the Norwich Cathedral falcons, so the death of one of the four chicks is a bitter blow.

However, three chicks live on, which is a very good return in a tough world. We will continue to watch the webcam with interest and hope that they survive – and thrive.

WORDS FOR LIFE

Come close to God, and God will come close to you.
James 4:8



tbc-online.org

READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ Susan Wooden's picture is of the glow of sunset on the wherry Hathor's sails. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit www.iwitness24.co.uk

'Hair it is' – all you need to know about word merging

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In Christchurch in New Zealand, there's a hairdressers – I hope it's still there, after the terrible earthquake – with a sign outside announcing "Hair It Is!". Here – or should I say hair – in Norfolk, we understand what's going on in this advert. In NZ, words like here and hair, beer and bare, fear and fare are pronounced the same, which is why the hairdresser could come up with this pun.

The EDP sub-editors could use puns like this too, but I don't think they do – perhaps they're not from Norfolk – because we don't make a difference between words such as really and rarely, dear and dare, peer and pair either. We used to, just as the Kiwis did. But in the last century and a half or so – it's more recent in New Zealand – we have, as linguists say, merged the two originally different vowels. We have merged them on the vowel of hair, so we say "hair and there". The Kiwis have gone the other way and say "here and there".

There's nothing surprising about two vowels merging – it happens all the time. Pairs of words like meet and meat, see and



■ What's going on here? A bad hair day...

Picture: PA

sea, team and team, used to be pronounced differently – Shakespeare would have done that – which is why they have different spellings. Mergers are not good or bad, they just happen. In this part of the world we haven't merged moan and mown like most English speakers have, but that doesn't make us better than them. And the fact that we have merged beer and bear, while they haven't, doesn't make us worse than them either.

This interesting innovation in Norfolk English is one which has also taken place quite independently in NZ and other places, such as Newfoundland. There's no

surprise about this. The vowels of here and hair are both rather infrequent and the difference is therefore relatively unimportant. And it's very hard to think of a situation where the merger could lead to misunderstanding. If a Kiwi says "I'm going to get my here cut", no one will misunderstand. And if I say "Norwich City are rarely good", you should be able to tell from my tone of voice what I mean.

Anyway, it was rarely kind of you to read this. As I used to say to the sadly-missed Tony Sheridan when I got off the bus on our way home from school, 'hair goo'.