

Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1870

Let's hope that this week's spending review delivers for county and country

It promises to be another testing week for our government as it attempts to pull the country from a recession that has hit even harder than most predicted.

On Wednesday, chancellor George Osborne will announce the government's spending plans for the year following the general election in 2015.

It is widely expected the majority of government departments are facing cuts of between 8pc and 10pc.

And you can pretty much guarantee that if the squeeze is being felt at a national level, that will eventually impact local government spending as well.

Whatever is announced on Wednesday, the headlines which follow are unlikely to make positive reading for Osborne, and his Prime Minister David Cameron.

And so often when that is likely to be the case, governments of the past have resorted to making easy win announcements in the hope that it distracts people from the remaining doom and gloom.

That tactic can often lead to the unveiling of big transport projects, similar to that which work on the A47 would have to be.

While it would be fantastic news for this county if the A47 was to be included in Wednesday's announcement, it's important we digest the government's proposals thoroughly before jumping up and down with glee.

As always this will be a great Norfolk event

There's no doubt about the thrill and excitement generated in the build up to, and at the two days of, The Royal Norfolk Show.

This is one of the country's great outdoors festivals and already the showground, on the outskirts of Norwich, is alive with activity.

The joy of the RNS is that it is a cracking event from first to last, with something for everyone, but also that it is a coming together for people of all walks of life, and from many parts of the region – not just Norfolk.

As the children's retro funfair was going up last night no one needed reminding that the show is for young and old alike.

A huge amount of work has gone in to making this year's show, on Wednesday and Thursday, an outstanding event.

We wish new chief executive Greg Smith, who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes, and his show director, Julian Taylor, all the very best.

But the event wouldn't be possible without the efforts of hundreds of stewards who give their time and energy simply for the enjoyment of thousands. A big salute to these wonderful volunteers.

With a hopeful weather forecast, we wish everyone at RNA a great time. The EDP, Evening News and MustardTV all week will be covering the varying aspects of the show in detail and with panache.

Roll on Wednesday.

WORDS FOR LIFE

Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us. Ephesians 5:2



READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ Sunset at Happisburgh, pictured by David Barton. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit www.iwitness24.co.uk

Having a nose for what a word means from its sound

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Most EDP readers probably don't know what the old Norfolk dialect word 'snurle' means. I had never heard of it myself until I came across it in John Greaves Nall's Glossary of the Dialect and Provincialisms of East Anglia, which was originally published in 1866. But it is an interesting fact about the English language that you might perhaps be able to have a stab at guessing something of what it means from how the word sounds.

Vowels and consonants usually have no meaning of their own. We can put them together to make words which do mean something, like house, or to make grammatical bits of words which linguists call "morphemes", like the -es in houses, which means 'more than one'. But sounds like 'e' and 's' don't have any meaning on their own.

There is also generally no connection between how a word sounds and what it means – the link is totally arbitrary. There is no reason why, as Shakespeare implied, a rose should be called a rose, or why a dwile should be called a dwile. A book can equally well be called a llyfr (Welsh) or a



■ Words like snarl, sneeze, sniff, snigger and snuffle all seem to have a connection with the nose.

vivlio (Greek) or ksi ka (Polish). The word mark means 'mark' in English, 'marrow' in German, and 'worm' in Norwegian.

However, sometimes we come across combinations of sounds in English which do seem to have some kind of significance of their own. Think about words like lump, bump, dump, thump, jump, crump. Doesn't it seem as if these -ump words all have something, rather heavy, in common? And what about glare, gleam, glimmer, glint, glisten, glitter, gloss, glow? The gl- combination in these words seems to indicate something to do with being shiny.

Linguists call this "sound symbolism".

Maybe "-ump" does have a rather heavy sound to it. But there doesn't seem to be any obvious reason why gl- should have anything to do with luminescence – in English, it just does.

So this gives us our clue about snurle. Think of words like snarl, sneer, sneeze, snicker, sniff, snuffle, snigger, snitch, snivel, snob, snooty, snooze, snore, snort, snout, snuff, and snuffle. It's not too far fetched, I think, to say that they all seem to have some connection with the nose. So it's not too much of a surprise to find that in Norfolk snurle as a noun means 'a cold in the head' and, as a verb, 'to talk through the nose'.