

Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1870

Protesters and rulers must work for stability in Egypt

More than two years after Hosni Mubarak was deposed during the Arab Spring, Egypt continues to be characterised by unrest.

Yesterday, thousands of Egyptians demanding the departure of Egypt's Islamist president gathered at Cairo's central Tahrir Square for a day of massive, nationwide protests. It was on the first anniversary of president Mohammed Morsi's assumption of power as Egypt's first freely elected leader.

Nationwide, the rallies were among the most gigantic Egypt has seen in nearly two and a half years of continual upheaval, including during the 18-day uprising that toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak in early 2011.

Like many Middle Eastern countries, the relationship between state and religion is an uncomfortable one.

In Egypt, those on the streets yesterday were opposing a president they feel has been uninterested in uniting Egyptians despite once promising to be inclusive.

But the president insists he has invited opposition groups to enter into dialogue, but that they have not co-operated.

Supporters say Mohammed Morsi must see out his full term in office for the sake of stability, and there could be clashes between opposing groups.

Certainly what Egypt needs now is stability. Its vital tourism industry has been crippled by the unrest over the last couple of years – more images of protests beamed around the world are sure to do more harm. Both sides must try to come together to find a way forward that prevents protests escalating into widespread violence.

Think about fee hike

In a rural community it is a reality that many who work in the city have no choice but to get into their car.

Norfolk's park-and-ride service has played a key role in keeping vehicles out of the city, but for it to continue to be used, it must remain affordable.

At a time when the cost of living is squeezed for many people, the 20pc fare rise could have a huge impact on incomes already under pressure.

The Oyster card-style pass is a welcome development and will be more convenient. It has worked well in London.

But the council must think carefully about the economics of hiking fares. We understand that budgets are under pressure, but such a big increase in price could hit drivers already suffering from high fuel prices and have unintended consequences for congestion in the city centre.

Great event for RNLI

The equipment used by the brave lifeboat volunteers today may be almost unrecognisable from that used 100 years ago, but the job they do in saving lives at sea is just as important.

Well done to lifeboat crews who used their brute strength and wooden oars to row more than 40 miles to raise funds this weekend.

The event was not only a chance to remember the rich RNLI history, but to raise much-needed funds for this vital and cherished emergency service so important to our many coastal towns.

READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ Antony Bond ventured into the idyllic Norfolk countryside to take this photograph of Bintree Mill. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit www.iwitness24.co.uk

Dewin' diff'rent about swingletrees and eddish

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I used to have no idea what a 'swingletree' was – there wasn't much use for one of those in post-Second World War Thorpe. But then dialectology taught me that it's the loose horizontal bar that goes between the cart-horse and the cart.

The Survey of English Dialects, in its 1950s research, studied words for swingle-tree in different parts of England, including 13 Norfolk localities. They discovered there were getting on for 20 different words for it. In southern Lincolnshire it was 'horsetree'. In Suffolk it was 'whippletree'. And what about Norfolk? In the far east of the county – Blickling, Ludham, Reedham – there actually was a truly Norfolk word, 'hampletree'. But in the centre and west – Docking, Gooderstone, Snoring, Grimston, North Elmham, Shipdham, Outwell – the Lincolnshire term also occurred across the border as 'hoss-tree'. In the south – Ashwellthorpe, Pulham, Garboldisham – speakers were part of a large area including Suffolk and the whole of southeastern England down to Hampshire which called it a 'whippletree'.

It's fascinating to think that between southern and central England there was



■ Norfolk craftsmen making a wooden cart in February 1950.

Picture: ARCHANT

an isogloss – a dialect boundary – which ran right through the middle of Norfolk, somewhere between Garboldisham and Shipdham. I wonder where it was? Somewhere around Great Hockham perhaps.

We can see a similar pattern, with a different boundary line which must run across the A47 at some point, from responses to the Survey's question about the word 'aftermath': "what do you call it when you let the grass grow again for a second crop?". In the northwest – Docking, Grimston, Gooderstone – they said 'eddish', which was shared with Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, Rutland, Huntingdonshire, and Cambridge. (Nobody knows where this word comes from, by the way.) But in the rest of the county, people said 'second-cut', which was

also the Suffolk term.

There was yet another dialect boundary which crossed Norfolk. The word for an orphaned, bottle-fed lamb was 'pet-lamb', except in the far south – Garboldisham, Pulham and Reedham – where it was 'cosset'. This extended into northern Suffolk – Tuddenham and Yoxford – and the northwestern corner of Essex.

It's quite legitimate to talk about "the Norfolk dialect", but we have to understand it's not a uniform monolith; and it doesn't suddenly stop at the county boundary. It does, though, stop at the North Sea coast. My great-great-grandmother came from Somerton, so perhaps I'm biased when I reckon it's not surprising if it's the distant eastern 'hampletree' part of the county where Norfolk people do most different.

WORDS FOR LIFE

Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it.
1 Peter 3:11

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