

# Eastern Daily Press

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## Anyone who knows anything on killing must speak out now

Unless you have been through the loss of a child, it is impossible to understand the grief it causes.

The horror can only be exacerbated when the death is from a brutal murder where the killer has never been brought to justice.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Carol and Robert Young today after enduring this nightmare for 21 years.

The Watton couple's daughter was murdered at Christmas in 1992 and the crime remains unsolved.

They have taken the brave step of speaking out as the anniversary approaches to try to jog consciences and obtain the vital information which could see the murderer finally caught.

Watton is a close-knit community and many people who were living in the town at the time are still there.

There may be those who are harbouring a criminal. Others may have lived in fear of speaking out. It is also possible that some people could never have thought something they saw or heard could be important.

Whatever the background, it is crucial that anyone with even the smallest morsel of information has to contact police.

Tragically Johanna – who would now be 35 years old – will never come back.

Her parents have to face every minute of every day knowing that horrendous fact.

Seeing justice done would at least give them some closure.

## The ambulance heroes

We have known for a long time that front-line ambulance staff are an incredibly dedicated bunch of people, who will continue to work hard whilst many of us are enjoying the Christmas holidays.

The time the EDP spent with an ambulance crew on Thursday night and the early hours of Friday was further proof of the professionalism and dedication of the paramedics of the East of England Ambulance Service – even at the most unsocial hours of the day.

Their bosses have been trying for some time to recruit more trained paramedics, but the trust board and management need to up their game to make sure the front-line staff get the help and support they need at a time when the ambulance service is under increased strain with more 999 calls every year and predictions of a busy winter period.

## Our little bundles of joy

Christmas is a time of joy. And these purr-fect bouncing babies are delivering bucketfuls of joy this festive season.

It has been six months since the birth of Banham Zoo's two Amur tiger cubs and they sure have grown! The tigers, which are an endangered species, have been adored by thousands of visitors to the Norfolk attraction this year and their development is being closely watched.

We look forward to following their progress over the next year until they move on from Banham as part of the European Breeding Programme to boost the Amur tiger population.

## READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ Getting up close to a beautiful magpie at Minsmere. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit [www.iwitness24.co.uk](http://www.iwitness24.co.uk)

Picture: FRANCES CRICKMORE

## Wonderful grammar is something to be celebrated

Peter  
Trudgill



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What a pity that some people in this country think grammar is something to get worried or indignant about. Grammar is a magnificent and exciting and wonderful thing. To see it reduced to the mundane level of letters complaining that people say "sat" rather than "sitting" is depressing. So is Mr Gove testing our children by instructing them to "complete the sentence below using either I or me: My team and \_\_\_ are playing next week". Obviously he thinks the "correct" answer is "I", which I agree is not wrong; but it's certainly not so common there as the equally correct "me".

All languages and dialects have their own special grammars. Over the millennia, human minds and societies have produced a range of amazing grammatical phenomena. I wonder if Mr Gove knows that many languages have two different pronouns corresponding to English 'we'? This is very sensible, because 'we' is ambiguous. If I tell you that 'we've got great tickets for Carrow Road for Saturday' you might get excited until it turns out that the 'we' is me and my wife,



■ Education secretary Michael Gove, who has been testing our children's grasp of English.

Picture: LUCY TAYLOR

and not me and you. (Mr Gove would mark me down for that last sentence.)

And what about verbs? English verbs are not particularly interesting. If you start from the basic form "move", you can use the grammatical endings we call morphemes to produce the forms moving, moved, and moves (except in Norfolk, where we don't even trouble ourselves about the latter). And that's it.

But in other languages there are verb morphemes which do all sorts of fascinating things. In the Californian language Pomo, there's a grammatical affix f- which means "with the side of a long object". It would be rather fun, I think, to be able to say "I fmoved it" in English.

And many languages have morphemes we call evidentials. These are compulsorily attached to verbs to show what your evidence is for saying something. They mean things like "I know because someone told me" or "I saw it" or "I assume". In the Amazonian language Tariana, "Wes irida di-manika-mahka" means 'Wes played football (we heard him)' whereas "Wes irida di-manika-nihka" means 'Wes played football (we infer that from visual evidence eg his boots are dirty)'.

If Mr Gove was speaking Tariana, he would never be able to just say "my team and me are playing" is wrong. People would accuse him of using bad grammar, and want to know what his evidence was.

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"Glory to God in the highest  
heaven, and on earth peace to  
those who have his good will!"  
Luke 2:14

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