

Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1870

Prepare children to recognise the peril of sex predators

They are crimes which too often remain hidden but are never forgotten by the young victims.

The Jimmy Savile scandal has brought into shocking focus the terrible impact of child sex abuse.

The public shaming of a former television star, who arrogantly thought his status as a favoured BBC sun put him above the law, has given strength to at least some of his many victims to tell their stories.

Too often they reveal they are still living under the shadow of his attacks decades on, their hopes and futures irrevocably blighted.

But worryingly, despite a recorded rise in sex crimes against children last year, the NSPCC says nearly half of parents are still neglecting to discuss the issue with their sons and daughters.

The charity stresses the value of parents starting the discussion when children are young and impressing on them the need to talk about secrets that upset them and to uphold such basic principles as: "Privates are private" and "Always remember your body belongs to you".

Parents can feel uncomfortable about broaching such topics and perhaps naturally want to leave their children cocooned in a world of innocence.

However, they must take heed of the fact that the world is now an even more dangerous place than when Savile was committing most of his crimes.

The internet, much loved of the younger generation, has opened up countless new ways for sexual predators to inveigle youngsters into their evil web. So parents be warned: knowledge can protect your children.

Cavell's lasting legacy

The First World War exposed the worst consequences of human aggression while bringing out the best in human nature – the duty and defiance amid the destruction.

And although his iconic call to arms can now only be viewed in the context of millions of young lives lost, there is no doubt that war secretary Lord Kitchener was a significant figure in this conflict.

But among all the protagonists and politicians who have earned their place on commemorative coins, there must surely be room for the humble Norfolk nurse whose heroism transcended the battle lines of warring nations.

Before her execution for rescuing 200 wounded soldiers, Edith Cavell acknowledged that "patriotism is not enough". Her motivations were purely compassionate – not political, not about achieving victory... which is why her timeless legacy remains worth celebrating today.

Never to be forgotten

As the bodies of the four American aircrew were flown home to their loved ones for military ceremonies and burial, a simpler service took place on the windswept Norfolk coast.

Candles were lit at Salthouse church to commemorate those who died last week's helicopter crash: but long after the candles have gone out, their memory will remain. The community of Norfolk will never forget their sacrifice.

READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ This picture is by Keith Sowter, who said: "An early morning passage down the River Yare – we came across hundreds of wildfowl on the water – as we approached and disturbed them they took flight." If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit www.iwitness24.co.uk

River names show difference in Anglo-Saxon dialects

Peter
Trudgill



email: newsdesk@archant.co.uk

The river that flows through the middle of Norwich is called, as you know, the Wensum. It's an interesting name. People sometimes think it's Celtic or Latin. It actually comes from a good Old English adjective meaning 'winding'. The Anglo-Saxon name was Wendsum – wend-some, if you like. Our linguistic ancestors probably started calling it that from about AD 500.

There's a river in Kent with a very similar name: the Wantsum. The names are so alike because they're actually the same name – rivers do tend, after all, to wind. And we can explain why the two names are not exactly the same: the Anglo-Saxon names were slightly different. The Kent river was the Wandsum.

But why was that? I thought it might be an Old English dialect difference, and so I inquired: this column frequently consults the world's leading authorities on your behalf. Naturally there were dialects in Anglo-Saxon Britain, just like now. And we have a good idea of the dialect situation from about AD 600 onwards. In Kent they spoke a dialect called, reasonably enough, Kentish. The other major dialects were Northumbrian, north of the Humber;



■ The River Wensum in Norwich. The name comes from the Anglo-Saxon word for 'winding'.

Mercian, from the Humber to the Thames; and West Saxon, from Sussex to Dorset – Devon and Somerset spoke the Celtic language Cornish. So Norfolk and Suffolk spoke Mercian. There actually are modern place-name differences inherited from these ancient dialects: the Weald is the West Saxon form of the old word for forest; the name of the Lincolnshire Wolds is the same word in Mercian dialect.

Our Mercian dialect was subdivided into Mercian proper, in the West Midlands; Mid-Anglan, in the East Midlands; East Saxon in Essex; and East Anglian. We sadly know very little about Old East Anglian – there are few records. We can, though, try and draw conclusions from

evidence such as place-names – including river-names. So what did the experts say about Wensum versus Wandsum? The form 'wand-', they reckon, really was a regional feature which was found in Kentish and East Saxon but not in East Anglian, where it was 'wend-'.

You can see the same '-an-' in the Essex village name Vange, originally Fan-ge, where 'fan' corresponded to the more usual 'fen', as in Fenton, Cambridgeshire.

Modern dialect maps sometimes show the same kind of Norfolk-Suffolk versus Essex-Kent pattern today. In Kent and Essex, it seems, they gape at things, while we might sit on the banks of the Wensum and, if a boat comes by, garp at it.

looking for GOD.com

Entrust your efforts to the Lord,
and your plans will succeed.
Proverbs 16:3

tlc

tlcnorwich.com