

# Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1870

## Dream sailing adventure that turned into tragedy

It was meant to be a dream round-the-world adventure. But Roger and Margaret Pratt's trip of a lifetime ended in tragedy in the most horrific of circumstances.

The Caribbean island of St Lucia is supposed to be paradise, but a cruel and brutal attack by three armed men ended in Mr Pratt being killed and his wife being badly beaten.

The couple had been preparing their yacht for years to sail around the world and set off from Lowestoft last year.

When their attacker boarded and attacked them on their boat on Friday whilst moored off the Vieux Fort coast, Mr Pratt showed enormous bravery and tried to defend his wife in what must have been an horrendous experience.

The attack, many miles from home, has left their family devastated and members of the Norfolk and Suffolk sailing community have been mourning the loss of Mr Pratt and sending their condolences to his wife and family.

The couple were members of the Royal Norfolk and Suffolk Yacht Club for many years and had planned to make Norfolk their home on their return from their adventures.

Mr and Mrs Pratt had planned meticulously for their round-the-world trip, but they could not have been prepared or expected such a violent attack to happen.

Thoughts and prayers were last night being said for the couple as their family and friends attempted to come to terms with such an unthinkable attack on the experienced sailors who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

## City clubland concerns

The latest street attack on Prince of Wales Road in Norwich highlights the potential dangers when it is frequented by those intent on causing violence and disorder.

The street has been renowned for years as a place for late night anti-social behaviour and alcohol fuelled violence. The broken leg and injuries suffered by an officer in the early hours of Sunday morning will mean many weeks and months of bed rest and rehabilitation for a man who was just trying to do his job. Norwich's clubland is an important part of the city's economy, but alcohol-related crimes and injuries put an enormous strain on the police and ambulance service. A number of initiatives have been introduced to try and crackdown on trouble. Do we treat this latest attack as another unfortunate statistic? Or should it be the catalyst for more change?

## Remembering war hero

We pledge to never forget those who fought for our country during Remembrance services. But one Norfolk woman has gone the extra mile to ensure the story of her great-great-great-great uncle is never forgotten. Lieutenant Nevill Coghill was one of thousands of British soldiers that were killed in the Anglo-Zulu war. A new painting will make sure that the name of one of the first posthumous recipients of the Victoria Cross will live on.

## READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

# iwitness24



■ The moated section of Baconsthorpe Castle, as pictured by Bill Pound. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit [www.iwitness24.co.uk](http://www.iwitness24.co.uk)

## Fings ain't wot they used to be with the use of English

Peter  
Trudgill



email: [newsdesk@archant.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk@archant.co.uk)



■ The art of thatching - or, according to some modern pronunciation, 'fatching'.

Dear EDP Letters Page,  
Am I the only reader who's getting rather fed up with all these older people who keep on writing to your newspaper to say how much they appreciate the speech of youngsters today?

I entirely agree that youth speech is greatly superior to the English which we remember our parents and grandparents speaking, and which we use ourselves.

I, too, therefore feel extremely optimistic about our language - it is clearly getting better all the time, and we may actually be approaching a Golden Age in the development of English.

But do these people have to keep going on about it? And do you have to keep publishing their letters? Can we not, please, call a moratorium on all this praise for modern speech?

I totally agree with the correspondent from Ashwellthorpe who so much appreciates the glottal stop in words like butter (bu'er), better (be'er) and city (ci'y) that she felt moved to write to the EDP to express her enthusiasm. I like it too, and am increasingly finding the older pronuncia-

tion ugly and unpleasant. But I don't see why it was necessary for her to write to the paper and say so.

It's also true, as the gentleman from Taverham wrote, that we all feel positive about the usage of 'f' rather than 'th' in words like fing, fistle, and fimble. Getting rid of unnecessary consonants like th is an excellent thing, as he quite rightly says, because it increases efficiency. Why talk about thatching your roof when you can just as well say fatching? But there's no need to keep belabouring the point is there? Can't we just accept that things are getting better and leave it at that? Why write a

letter to the paper just to impart the information that you really like people saying "fing" and "bruvver"? Would you write a letter to the EDP to say "I really like porridge"? I don't think so.

I admit that I too personally rejoice in locutions such as "She was just like walking along the pavement when this cyclist like ran into her" - it's so much better, I feel, than using "sort of" or "kind of" as we used to. And I so enjoy hearing 'was like' instead of 'said': "I was like 'wow' and he was like 'yeah!'. Wonderful.

But I wouldn't dream of writing a letter to the paper about it.

looking for GOD.com

You made me; you created me.  
Now give me the sense to follow  
your commands.

Psalms 119:73

tlc

tlcnorwich.com