

# Eastern Daily Press

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## We must all take responsibility for this terrible toll

All too often, here at the Eastern Daily Press, we have to bring you truly tragic news – that yet another family has lost a loved one on the county's roads.

From children who have died while crossing roads, to cyclists being hit by vehicles and drivers who have perished after crashes with other cars, collisions on the roads have reaped a terrible toll.

Yet, compared to the 1980s, the number of casualties and the number of deaths has fallen considerably and that is testament, not only to improved vehicle safety, but to the work of a great many people in organisations which are trying to make the roads safer for everyone.

A new report into casualties on our roads has been produced by Norfolk County Council, compiled using statistics from the police, ambulance service, fire and rescue service and hospitals.

It gives the most comprehensive picture yet produced of who is getting hurt and helps give some context as to why people are getting hurt.

It's a vital piece of work, because it can help the organisations who try to make the roads safer to get the right messages across to the right people.

Ultimately, however, most of the responsibility rests with us – as road users – be that as drivers, cyclists, motorcyclists, pedestrians or even horse riders.

We must never forget that when we head out onto the roads, we are potentially putting our lives and the lives of other people in danger.

We should all remember to pay more attention to what we – and others – are doing on the roads.

## First taste of Mustard

It has been the talk of Norfolk for months. There has been much anticipation on social media, a swell of interest from local businesses and countless column inches of coverage. And now Mustard TV is finally here.

Your local TV station – which will champion the interests of people in Norwich and Norfolk – will beam its first live broadcast to homes across the county at 5.30pm today.

Mustard TV will offer truly local coverage - from news and sport to business, current affairs, local entertainment, technology and leisure.

Its first evening of programming will include local news, the latest Norwich City analysis and The Mustard Show - presented by Norwich City legend Darren Eadie and Beth Davison. We hope you enjoy your first taste of Mustard.

## Tetty's wonder strike

When Alex Tetty's wonder volley struck the back of the net, Carrow Road erupted in celebration.

The thunderbolt in the 32nd minute of City's 2-0 win against Sunderland on Saturday cannot on its own make up for what has been a frustrating season for fans.

But it went some way to lifting Canaries' spirits, and has sparked a debate about whether it could be the best goal ever scored by a Norwich City player.

Whether or not it tops the hall of fame, it was the cherry on top of a spirited display cheered on by the clap banners. May it continue for the rest of the season.

## READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

# iwitness24



■ Hundreds of daffodils in the early morning sunshine at Honing caught on camera by Dinah Groom. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit [www.iwitness24.co.uk](http://www.iwitness24.co.uk)

## How our Norfolk dialect makes grammar clearer

Peter  
Trudgill



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

Lynne Truss is a well-known English author and journalist. She has been described as a "professional pedant". And she has made a lot of money out of writing a book which is based on the observation that the phrase "it eats shoots and leaves" is ambiguous.

She says, quite rightly, that the phrase represents a very good example of how important punctuation can be for making meaning clear in the written language. "A panda eats shoots and leaves" means something very different from "It eats, shoots, and leaves".

This is a joke, of course. It's quite a good joke, I suppose. But there is no way this phrase would actually have led to any ambiguity or misunderstanding in real life, even without any punctuation.

The particular scenario conjured up by Truss as the background for her sentence involves a café, and a talking panda in possession of a firearm – not something one would expect to encounter in real life, even in the United States.

As readers of this column will know, I agree very much with Lynne Truss that



■ Well-known author Lynne Truss has made a lot of money out of her book based on the phrase 'it eats shoots and leaves'.

Picture: LIBRARY

punctuation is vitally important in writing. But notice there is something very interesting for Norfolk and Suffolk people about the ambiguity of her sentence.

It's the grammar. We are often told that grammar is very important for making meaning clear. It is. But it doesn't have to be the grammar of Standard English, as some teachers would have us believe. All dialects have their own grammatical structures and rules. And it is precisely the grammar of Standard English which makes Lynne's sentence ambiguous.

Her illustrative phrase represents a case where the grammar of the Standard English dialect is not as clear as the

grammar of the Norfolk dialect. In Norfolk, even without punctuation, there would be absolutely no ambiguity. This is because we would have different sentences for each of the meanings. In fact, we can translate Lynne's sentence in as many as three different ways.

Of any normal real-life, unarmed panda in the wild, we would say "That eat shoots and leaves". If a particular one of these wild animals was known for its frequent departures, we could say "That eat shoots and leave". But of the rather scary, even if imaginary, armed panda in the café, we would have to say "That eat, shoot, and leave".

Three chairs for our Norfolk dialect!

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We can go to God with bold confidence through faith in Christ.  
Ephesians 3:12

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