

Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1870

Region's GP funding blow is a missed opportunity

A pledge to pump millions of pounds of money into GP surgeries to help them offer more appointments at evenings and weekends should be welcome news.

Busy families and hard working professionals have been crying out for years for something to be done to help make it easier for patients to see their GP when they need them.

However, news that not a single practice in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridge will benefit from the government's GP Access Fund is a kick in the teeth for patients living in this region.

More than 1,000 GP surgeries across the country are set to benefit from a share of £50m to enable them to offer more out of hours appointments, or use new technology such as Skype to hold consultations.

However, our region misses out because the Department of Health focused funding on larger population areas and not enough local GPs registered their interest in the scheme. Wouldn't it have been fairer if the money was more equally spread out?

A lot of headlines have been dedicated to the huge pressures facing A&E departments from patients who have not necessarily suffered an accident or need emergency care.

Extra funding for local practices would have been a welcome boost to help care for people in their own communities and give patients more opportunities to access healthcare outside of the usual 9 to 5 opening hours.

This pilot cash would have been a great opportunity to gauge the demand for more out of hours GP care in East Anglia, but has become a missed opportunity.

Grim news for our terns

Norfolk's coastline and the people living along it know only too well the damage flooding can cause.

Communities are still recovering from the devastating impact of December's tidal surge, which flooded large parts of the county.

Ironically, the extra shingle deposited by the exceptionally high tides, means that the little tern may return to the site it abandoned in North Denes, Great Yarmouth, according to officials from the RSPB.

However, the long-term prognosis for one of the UK's rarest seabirds is looking less rosy because of rising sea levels and habitat erosion.

The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report makes for grim reading.

However, we can do our bit by making sure little terns are left in peace on our diminishing beaches.

Wonderful achievement

Completing a marathon is not just a major physical and mental test.

The 26.2 mile course of the London Marathon also demonstrates the very best of human nature with people putting their bodies on the line to raise money and awareness of wonderful charities.

Well done to all you fabulous runners and supporters.

looking for GOD.com

He was the source of life, and that
life was the light for humanity.
John 1:4

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READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ Cromer in spring - and that is when it is at its best, according to photographer Karen Bracey. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit www.iwitness24.co.uk

The only crime here is the attack on native dialects

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Norman (Lord) Tebbit, the former Tory government minister, once said: "If you allow standards to slip to the stage where good English is no better than bad English, where people turn up filthy at school – those things cause people to have no standards at all, and once you lose standards, then there's no imperative to stay out of crime."

So there you are, then. 'Bad English' causes crime.

And we know what Norman means by "bad English", don't we?

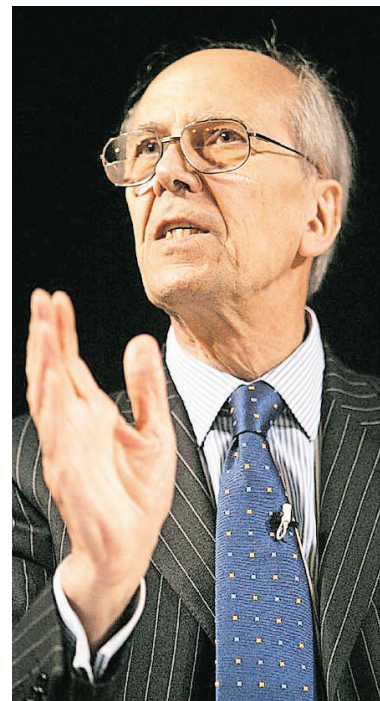
He means saying "that go" instead of "it goes".

He means saying "Hair that be!" instead of "Here it is!".

He means saying "I done it yistry" instead of "I did it yesterday".

So that's good news: all we have to do is persuade everybody in Norfolk to abandon our native dialect grammar and use the Standard English dialect instead – and the crime rate in our county will plummet.

In the meantime, though, it would be fun to know which particular crimes are caused by which particular aspects of 'bad



■ Lord Tebbit, the former Tory government minister.

responsible for any terribly serious criminal activity.

In fact, it's almost certain that the nation was swindled out of millions through the mis-selling of PPIs by people who were saying 'this product works really well', not 'this product work rarely good'.

The whole thing is, of course, complete nonsense.

But notice the effortless self-confidence with which Norman used the word "standards".

That's what people in positions of wealth and power do. They define the way they themselves speak as being of a 'high standard', and their English as 'good' – cultured, elegant, and 'correct'.

Any other way of speaking, as used by ordinary people with less power and wealth, is self-evidently inferior – and not just inferior but 'bad'.

That would all be OK – we could just leave them alone to get on with their delusions – if it wasn't for the fact that they try very hard to persuade the rest of us that their language really is the only 'good' English there is.

And since they've always had the power to control our media and education, they've been rather successful.

But we mustn't let ourselves be fooled. All dialects are equally good, correct, systematic, and of a high standard, including ours.

Next time a policeman stops you for cycling without lights, tell him that in't nothing to do with your grammar, just your battery.

English'. It's hard to imagine that the absence from the Norfolk dialect of the third-person singular has been directly