

# Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY  
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## More can be done, but the good times are now returning

News on the economy continues to be good. Last week figures showed that the economy is almost back to its pre-financial crisis peak and today's purchasing managers index survey shows this region is powering ahead.

Job creation in the East is the strongest in the survey's history.

But while the figures are good, we must not be complacent.

There are still many people looking for jobs and many who are paid too little.

Too many families are struggling to make ends meet each month. There is much more the government can do to help this region to become home to more highly skilled and better paid jobs.

If we are to encourage more businesses to come to our thriving region we need better infrastructure.

The rail link between Norwich and London needs drastic and urgent improvement and the government must give the green light to an ambitious plan to upgrade the A47 when it makes its decision later this year.

And nationally we are not out of the woods yet. The UK is still burdened with a huge deficit and has a massive debt pile to tackle. There will be more cuts to come.

But it is clear things could be much worse. Our burgeoning private sector should be congratulated. We have many talented entrepreneurs in this region.

There are many world-class Norfolk and Suffolk companies trading around the world, creating prosperity in this region. And the good times appear to be returning in many quarters.

## Support the Green Team

We applaud residents in Reepham who have been working hard to turn their town more green over the last ten years.

Their enthusiasm to make the place where they live more sustainable has resulted in more solar-powered homes, insulated community buildings and the formation of a car club. However, could Reepham Green Team have been given more government support to achieve more eco-friendly projects?

Researchers from the University of East Anglia's School of Environmental Sciences believe that more could have been done to unlock the Norfolk town's potential to tackle climate change. Much has happened over the past 10 years to make communities more sustainable, but we can all do our own little bit to help the environment.

## Premier League return

Time and again it is proven that a city or town's football status can have an impact not just on the general mood of its people, but also the perception others have of it. A premier league club means a premier league city.

That is why it is essential that Norwich City – sadly preparing for Championship football next season – put every effort into getting things right at the club.

The right manager, the right players and the right backing from the board are essential elements if the Canaries are to fight back into the Premier League.

The city and the fans deserve no less.

## READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

# iwitness24



■ Paul Richardson took this aerial photo of the North Norfolk coastline from a microlight on his travels with John Fielding in his Skyrainger. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit [www.iwitness24.co.uk](http://www.iwitness24.co.uk)

## The history of this ancient street is a piece of cake



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Next time you're walking down Westlegate in Norwich, you might like to reflect on the fact that there's actually nothing very English about this street-name. The 'gate' part of Westlegate is Scandinavian in origin, and hasn't got anything to do with gates. We owe this part of the name to the Old Danish language of the Viking incomers who arrived in East Anglia in the 800s and formed a substantial part of the bilingual population of Norwich in the 900s.

'Gate' was the Scandinavian word for street – and it still is. There are streets in many Norwegian towns today called Kirkegate, 'Church Street'. Fiskergata in Stockholm is exactly the same name as Fishergate in Norwich – 'Fishermen's Street'. In Norwich we also have Pottergate, Colegate, Cowgate, Mountergate, Finkelgate. In Thetford we have Eastgate, Minstergate, Nunsgate, and Redgate...

The 'westle' bit is even more interesting. It comes from the mediaeval Middle English word 'wastel', which meant 'finest white flour'. In mediaeval Norwich, there was a part of the market called Wastelmarket where this special product was sold.

The word itself came into English from



■ Westlegate is being developed as a very modern area, but its name has ancient roots.

the Anglo-Norman French language of the invaders of 1066, like 40pc of the rest of our modern English vocabulary. But the French themselves originally got the word 'wastel' from the Germanic language of the Franks.

In the Old French dialect of Paris, unlike in Anglo-Norman, it was usual for the w at the beginning of Frankish words to become a 'g', as in guerre (war). In English we have a few pairs of words that come from Parisian Old French and Anglo-Norman respectively: guardian – warden; guarantee – warranty.

So in Old French the word 'wastel' became 'gastel'. In Modern French 'gastel' has become 'gâteau' (cake), which origi-

nally would have meant a cake made of the highest quality white flour. And today we have once again borrowed wastel into modern English, this time from modern French in the form of 'gâteau', meaning a particular type of layered cake with cream and fruit.

I don't know if they serve gateau in the pub on Westlegate. I can't imagine anyone in the old days going up to the bar and demanding "a pinta mild'n'a slice a cherry gatoo", but maybe they do now – it would certainly be appropriate if so.

The Scandinavian word 'gate' is related to our word 'gait', referring to the way people walk. So you can, if you like, think of Westlegate as meaning 'cake-walk'.

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He is the one... who satisfies your life with good things, so your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

Psalm 103:3

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