

Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1870

Fantastic projects will be a fitting honour to heroes

We are now little over a month from the centenary of that dreadful evening when, in the memorable phrase attributed to then foreign secretary Sir Edward Grey, the "lamps went out all over Europe" – and the world was at war.

It was another four years of slaughter before the darkness lifted and the Great War ended.

To us, now – 100 years on from the start of the First World War – the intervening period might seem a great distance, the scale of the loss of life it brought unimaginable. But we must try to imagine it. And we must remember it. And we must honour the sacrifices of those not many generations past.

So today's announcement of council funding for schemes marking the anniversary of the war, and for projects to ensure the region's memorials are in a fit state, is welcome.

But official actions are not enough. It is up to every one of us – when the centenary comes – to reflect on that world-changing conflict and give thanks that we do not face it in our lifetime. That is why hearing of these projects is so heartening. These are the schemes which have carefully, and lovingly and reverentially taken shape in village halls, pubs, community groups and homes across our region – not in the corridors of power.

Behind these projects are people who have seen the centenary approaching and decided it is something worth marking in their communities.

So while we remember those who served 100 years ago, we also salute those taking the trouble to ensure they are fittingly honoured today.

A highlight of the year

The county's calendar reaches a crescendo this week with the Royal Norfolk Show. This year fully lives up its royal billing, with a visit – over both days – from the Earl of Wessex.

The Royals have given the event many of its highlights over the years and we look forward to the Earl providing more this week.

The organisers tell us that everything is prepared and ready for the Wednesday start and we await the launch with great anticipation.

But there is one factor neither they nor anyone else can control.

So let us all hope that, as well as a Royal visit, the show also benefits from good weather.

As we report today, early indications are for sunshine – with clouds. A classic Norfolk day. We would take that.

Betty's part of the family

Bravo Betty Norris. This weekend the 84-year-old returned to the EDP paper round she has served for almost 40 years, after a brief period off recovering from an operation. Mrs Norris took over the round from her then teenage daughter and the role was filled by her granddaughters in her absence. She is part of the EDP family – long may her paper round continue.

READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ This dramatic picture of young starlings fighting over a suetball, was captured by Dina Wright, from Edgefield. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit www.iwitness24.co.uk

Marvellous memories of a special day in Swardeston



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It may surprise some people to learn that quite a lot of languages don't have words for yes and no. How could they possibly manage without them? But they do.

Latin managed it; Gaelic manages it. It's easy: "Are you ready? – I am." "Did they see it? – They did." "Has he arrived? – He has not."

Some languages, though, go the other way and have not one but two words for yes. In German, "ja" means yes – but not if you are disagreeing with something. If someone says it isn't raining and you think it is, you'll reply "doch!", meaning 'yes [it is raining, you're wrong]'. This was also true of earlier forms of English, from Anglo-Saxon up to Elizabethan times. 'Yea' corresponded to German "ja", and "yes" to "doch". But we went even further than this in English, and had two words for no as well: "You're ready? – Nay [I'm not]". "You're not ready? – No".

There are also a number of different words for yes and no in various English local dialects. In the north of Britain, yes is "aye" – you hear it all the time in Scotland. In the traditional dialects of the West Country they say "iss". And of course in this part of the world too we



■ Edith Cavell, a Norfolk heroine from the history books. She became much more real during one visit to Swardeston in the 1950s.

naturally have our own word for yes. I remember extremely vividly one occasion when I heard it used. One summer Sunday in the early 1950s, when I was about 10, my grandfather took my cousin and me for a walk in the country, as he sometimes did. Around midday we found ourselves in Swardeston and ready for a rest. Grandad got talking to an old boy who was sitting on a bench on the village green, leaning on his stick.

After a while, Grandad asked him a question which absolutely astonished me – had the old gentleman, Grandad asked,

known Edith Cavell? What a question, I thought! Of course he couldn't have! Edith Cavell was a heroine from history; she was a revered and legendary and almost mythical figure from long, long ago. I knew she came from Swardeston, of course, but she was someone from our history lessons – how could we possibly be talking about her, as a real person, on the village green now?

But then the old fella's reply astonished me even more. He sighed and nodded. "Ah," he said in very matter of fact way. "Ah. I remember the gal Edie".

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I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord. They are plans for peace and not disaster.
Jeremiah 29:11

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