

# Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1870

## Fans should play their part and help keep football safe

Keeping people safe at football matches can be a costly business, certainly judging by figures just released by Norfolk police.

A Freedom of Information (FoI) request has shown that the list of overtime payments and other costs incurred while policing games at Norwich City's Carrow Road ground over the past three seasons show police have spent more than £300,000 on safety and crowd control measures.

It might be a surprise to learn that the most spent on a single game during that period was on the FA Cup fourth round tie against non-league Luton Town on January 26 last year which required 93 police officers to attend and cost a total of £12,442.

The least spent on a game that was policed was £222 on last season's League Cup tie against Bury on August 27.

The figures, which are affected by the timing of matches and intelligence reports, with games on bank holidays or in the evening often requiring more officers on overtime, might be startling but ultimately no price can be put on safety.

The well-being of those attending football matches is paramount and any cost incurred in providing a police presence proportionate to the risk presented must be accepted. The new campaign is just round the corner and of course the new season brings with it the return of the local derby.

We know it will be heavily policed and there will be a big price to pay – and we can only appeal to fans of both clubs to make it a trouble-free day.

## More flooding misery

How could it happen again?

That will be the question on the lips of countless people in Norwich today after they suffered fresh misery due to flooding.

It is the middle of summer.

For much of the weekend we enjoyed lovely weather and basked in the sun and temperatures which were hotter than much of Europe.

There were warnings of storms and on Saturday night the skies above the city were lit up with spectacular lightning.

Yesterday the heavy rain followed.

It is unacceptable that the lives of people in Norwich have again been turned upside down.

So we repeat our message to all the authorities – act and act fast.

Our city has to be better served.

## Savings on top days out

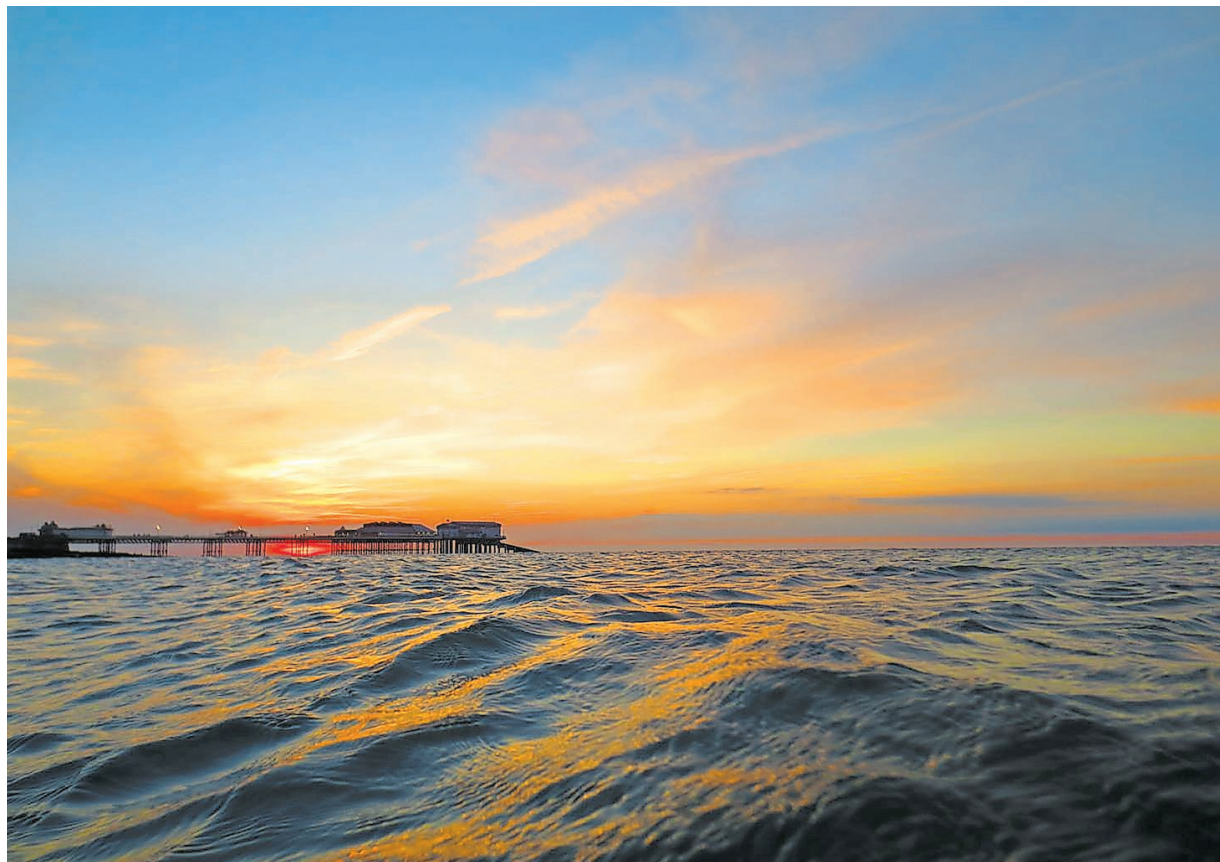
There are so many amazing places to visit in our wonderful region.

And we are delighted to offer readers the chance to make huge savings on local attractions in our fabulous Great Days Out supplement.

We trust you will take it as a chance to discover new gems on your doorstep and spend time exploring the coast, forests and highways and byways,

## READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

# iwitness24



■ A gently swelling sea and a beautiful sunset over Cromer pier in this photograph by Kate Royall. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit [www.iwitness24.co.uk](http://www.iwitness24.co.uk)

## Speak out loud and be proud of your Norfolk accent

Peter  
Trudgill



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It was an interesting day for me linguistically.

I was on the west coast of the USA. About 9pm, at a party, an American woman came up to me and said: "I just love your accent – it's beautiful!"

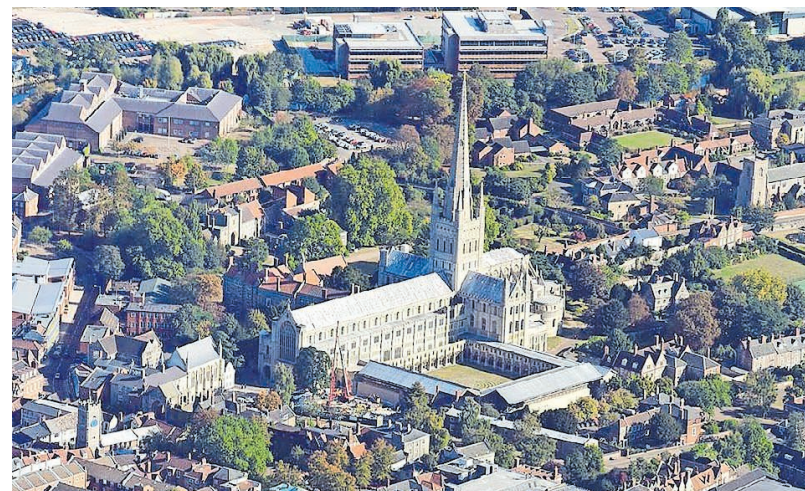
Then, about an hour later, I downloaded the iPad edition of that day's EDP – Oregon time is eight hours behind Norwich time – and found Steve Downes also talking about my accent (and his). But Steve was taking a very different line.

"Our regional accent," asserted Steve, "can make us sound a bit slow. Just ask people from outside Norfolk."

"Sometimes," reckons Steve, "the truth hurts." But, Steve, it's not the truth! That woman was from outside Norfolk, and she didn't think my Norfolk accent made me sound "a bit slow". She thought it made me sound intelligent and authoritative.

I don't agree with Steve that it is hypocritical to alter the way you speak according to context. Most people do that quite naturally and spontaneously.

But I do agree with Steve that we must hope for a future where it is what we say that matters, not the accent we say it in. Steve, though, is not helping matters at



■ Norwich - and Norfolk - have much to be proud of - and that includes our accent says Peter Trudgill.

Picture: MIKE PAGE

all if he believes that, when he speaks in his native local accent, he comes across as "slow". He's got to stop believing that. I don't believe it.

But I acknowledge that Steve is not alone – sadly, many people in Norfolk do feel that way. They've been brainwashed by the ignorant attitudes of "people from outside Norfolk".

We should not waste our time asking such people what they think, as Steve suggests.

On the contrary, we should work on what we think about our accent ourselves. There's nothing inherently stupid-sounding about our accent at all. Such judgments are, as Steve rightly says, lazy

stereotypes. And they are based on perceptions about particular places.

Let us remind ourselves that Norwich is a famous city, with a distinguished history, a high-level university, a cutting-edge research park, a lively cultural scene, a population of a quarter of a million and, sometimes, a Premier League football team.

We have no need to feel inferior to anyone about the accent that belongs to our city, or anything else.

I just love your accent, Steve. The USA is full of people who think it makes you sound intelligent and authoritative. Why don't you decide you feel the same way about it yourself?

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The Lord shall guide you and satisfy you in drought and in dry places and make strong your bones.

Isaiah 58:11

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