

# Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1870

## Shocking waste of cash on missed NHS appointments

We are constantly being reminded by political groups, unions and NHS bosses that money is tighter than ever in the health service.

News that Norfolk's three acute hospitals lost an estimated £10m last year as a result of missed outpatient appointments reveals a shocking waste of NHS money.

There are many reasons why someone might not turn up to a medical appointment such as forgetfulness, transport problems, or a patient feeling better to too scared to go into hospital for a procedure.

However, we all need to play our part to help reduce the number of missed appointments and the impact that has on local NHS trusts.

Patients have a duty to make sure they tell a hospital if they can not attend for whatever reason and NHS trusts need to make the process of booking, cancelling and re-arranging appointments as easy as possible.

As the number of outpatient appointments increase every year, the number of "did not attend" cases has risen.

It will be difficult to drive down the number of missed appointments to zero. However, projects such as telephone, text and email reminder systems appear to be the way forward to make sure patients do not forget about their appointments.

Friends and family of elderly or vulnerable patients could also do their bit to make sure thousands of outpatient appointments are not being rearranged every year. £10m could employ hundreds of extra nurses in Norfolk to improve patient care.

## Fitting tribute to Edith

In an era when the title "hero" is bandied about far too readily, it is important to remember Edith Cavell – a Norfolk woman who genuinely deserves the description.

Next year will see the 100th anniversary of the brutal execution by the Germans of the woman from Swardston whose story of courage and self-sacrifice moved and horrified so many.

It is entirely fitting that the government is handing over money for the refurbishment of Nurse Cavell's grave at Norwich Cathedral, and to further the telling of her story, which has messages that transcend generations.

Norfolk is immensely proud of her, as a woman who represented her county and country with such honour and endurance. We hope this investment will raise her profile and give many more people the chance to be inspired by her story.

## We're loving the Linnets

The early rounds of the FA Cup are where the real romance lies these days. So we congratulate King's Lynn Town, who are setting their sights on some big names as they stand one win away from the FA Cup first round proper.

Commiserations to Lowestoft Town, who fell just short. But now our full attention is on the Linnets.

Fingers crossed for a favourable – preferably home – draw today, followed by another performance to get the fans and the town singing as they continue to progress.

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Turn to the Lord, your strength.  
Seek his presence always.  
Psalms 105: 4



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## READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ A tranquil scene at Blakeney Quay under an autumnal blue sky taken by Pamela Culley. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit [www.iwitness24.co.uk](http://www.iwitness24.co.uk)

## Let me tell you the mysterious tale of Wiveton bridge

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My grandfather, George Gooch, was born in Wiveton. So was my mother. That is probably why, unlike most children in Norwich, I was brought up with the knowledge that there was something mysterious about Wiveton bridge.

Wiveton used to be located on the western edge of what was, until a few centuries ago, the broad estuary of the River Glaven.

"Clay", as it was spelt in those days, lay across from it on the eastern bank. John Wright, writing in the Glaven Historian, the excellent magazine produced by the Blakeney Area Historical Society, tells us that in the old days, tidal sea water reached inland as far as Glandford Mill.

And there were actually two channels of the Glaven between Clay and Wiveton, with something like an island in the middle.

Right up until the early medieval period, there was no way to get across the estuary, except at low tide, until you got as far upstream as Glandford.

But then bridges were built. The – very old – bridge we now have in Wiveton, which crossed the western branch of the Glaven, was built in the 1300s, replacing one which had been constructed a few decades earlier.



■ St Margaret's Church, Cley from the churchyard at Wiveton. At one time a boat would have been required to get from one to the other across the river Glaven.

Picture: LIBRARY

And there also used to be another, wooden, bridge across the eastern branch from Clay.

Being situated on either side of this estuary meant that Wiveton and Clay were, like Blakeney, rather important harbours, which brought the villages considerable wealth.

But then in the 17th century the embankment which now carries the coast road from Blakeney to Cley was constructed, and the estuary gradually silted up.

There is nothing mysterious about any of this to the historians of the Blakeney area. But there is this one mysterious thing which I came to learn about and

ponder in my childhood: there is a special name for the area under Wiveton bridge – for the space between the bottom of the bridge and the water.

The name might perhaps have to do with the fact that the Glaven has historically marked the boundary between the parishes of Cley and Wiveton. But nobody really seems to know where the name comes from – please let me know if you do!

And, in particular, nobody seems to know why on earth an area under a bridge should have a name at all anyway. Why would it?

But it does. The area under Wiveton bridge is called "Nowhere".