

# Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1870

## A big salute to the emergency teams who help us stay safe

After more than a year punctuated by extreme weather events, East Anglia's emergency teams have been called upon time and time again.

There was the St Jude's Day storm, which brought the railway network to a halt and brought down trees across the region.

Coastal communities bore the brunt of the tidal surge on December 5, as waters rose to levels not seen for 60 years.

And a string of flash floods through the summer showed caution should be exercised beyond the colder months.

Common to all of the above was the reassuring presence of those there to ensure we stay safe.

Environment Agency chiefs kept a close eye on forecasts, alerting people to imminent risk and ensuring defences were maintained.

Police knocked on thousands of doors ahead of the tidal surge to ensure those in at-risk locations were out of harm's way when the worst hit.

Local councils put emergency plans in place, ambulance crews were on standby and fire fighters worked to ensure water was pumped from homes when flooding was unavoidable.

Today, the region faces a battering from the tail-end of a hurricane. Experts say it is too early to tell what the impact of Hurricane Gonzalo – that caused widespread damage in Bermuda in recent days – will have on East Anglia.

It is possible emergency teams will be called upon yet again. To those brave teams – we salute you for your vital work.

## Bouquets for volunteers

Long after the crowds depart and the marquees are taken down, Sandringham Flower Show continues to bring pleasure in the shape of donations to good causes large and small.

The news that this year's event is donating more than £30,000 is all the more impressive when you look behind the scenes. For while it has grown from humble beginnings in the 1880s into one of the biggest one-day events of its kind, this spectacular show is organised and run by volunteers.

This show, beloved by thousands, is a real feather – or should that be buttonhole – in Norfolk's cap.

As preparations get under way for next year's event, we hope those volunteers pause to look back with pride at their sterling efforts this summer.

## Capturing our wildlife

Our region is lucky to have some of the most picturesque countryside and wonderful wildlife in the world.

We are also fortunate to have a top photographer in Martin Hayward Smith who is able to preserve these scenes for future generations.

The photographer has travelled the world, seen some amazing landscapes and pictured some magnificent creatures. But still he could not be happier than when he is in his own backyard hiding in hedgerows to picture the Great British wildlife that calls our region home.

looking for GOD.com

Let the wilderness and the towns rejoice, and the villages of the tribes of Kedar.  
Isaiah 42:11

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## READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ Happisburgh Lighthouse pictured by Shaun Reynolds. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit [www.iwitness24.co.uk](http://www.iwitness24.co.uk)

## Smelly city drains made unpleasant news 120 years ago



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An interesting item appeared in this newspaper on October 23 1894.

It was a report that an official's attention "had been called to every cockey in Lakenham that smelt badly".

I think it's safe to say that today, 120 years later, very few people in Lakenham, or anywhere else for that matter, would understand what this report meant.

What on earth, they would ask, is a cockey?

The clue is the bad smell. By the time that report was published, the word cockey, as used in the Norwich area, had come to mean a drain or sewer.

The sad truth is that the word had originally been used to refer to the several, no doubt rather pleasant, watercourses that flowed through medieval Norwich.

But over the centuries, these had been used more and more for waste and sewage, and they were eventually covered over and often built on.

The Little Cockey was a stream that started in the area of Chapelfield Gardens and flowed across St Giles' and down the line of Willow Lane and Ten Bell Lane, across St Benedict's, and down into the river.



■ The name Cockey Lane was used to refer to the bottom part of London Street, Back of the Inns, and Little London Street.

The best known of the cockeys was The Great Cockey. It started by the top end of Surrey Street and flowed through the All Saints Green area, across Red Lion Street, along the Back of the Inns, down the line of Little London Street, across Bedford Street, through School Lane, and across St Andrew's.

If you go out to the back of the Playhouse on St George's and walk to the edge of the river, you can look across the Wensum and see there's still an outflow there emerging from under the multi-storey car-park.

At various points in the history of Norwich, the name Cockey Lane was used

to refer to the bottom part of London Street, Back of the Inns, and Little London Street. The word cockey seems to be purely a Norfolk and Suffolk word – in the English Dialect Dictionary there are no reports from anywhere else – but its origins are obscure.

The "ey" bit comes from an Anglo-Saxon word for river, which also occurs in the names of the rivers Waveney and Wissey.

But there's much less certainty about the first part of the word.

The expert on Norwich street-names, Prof Sandred, tells us that it could be Celtic, Anglo-Saxon, or Scandinavian.

But the honest truth is we don't know.