

# Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1870

## Help us to combat thieves hitting our precious churches

Today, we say enough is enough, as we launch a campaign to hit back at the church roof raiders.

Centuries old symbols of faith, hope and charity in far-flung corners of our county have become a magnet to modern-day metal thieves.

Raiders are sometimes believed to pose as bona fide roofers or traders as they go about their unsavoury work.

This repugnant crime is on the increase, with twice as many thefts reported as last year in East Anglia according to church insurers Ecclesiastical.

To add insult to injury, the gangs who strip the lead sheeting from church roofs often cause damage to these priceless buildings which costs tens of thousands to repair.

Raising the sums of money involved can be a daunting challenge for a rural village, while the cost of the technology needed to fortify a large, remote building against the roof thieves can also run to thousands.

It's demoralising to say the least if you're one of the church wardens or conservationists who helps to look after these places.

Worse still if the lead has been stripped not from a roof, but from the lettering of a loved one's headstone.

As congregations dwindle, many churches now stand empty much of the time. But that doesn't mean they're unloved and we can't keep a closer eye on them to help preserve them for the future.

So today we're offering a £1,000 reward for any information leading to the conviction of gang members – and urging other organisations to support us.

## Our panel needs you

Next May's election will be the most exciting in the modern political era, with the rise of UKIP, the Greens and SNP throwing the race to 10 Downing Street wide open.

Everyone has something to say about politics, whether they're moaning about immigration, the price of a pint, or praising the NHS – so why not get your voice heard on the EDP's voting panel?

We are looking for readers to give us their thoughts in the run-up to the general election on May 7 by keeping a short campaign diary and letting us know their views on the many promises which parties will make between now and next spring.

We don't mind if you're a first-time voter or a politics professor. The important thing is to get involved in how our country is run and who's running it.

## In praise of broadcast

The Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital deals with more than 800,000 patients a year so it's hard to fathom the huge number of people reached by the volunteers at Hospital Radio Norwich over the last 40 years.

Regardless, the station has eased the stay of hundreds of thousands of patients with its music and Norwich City match commentary.

Those who have volunteered and donated over the last four decades to keep the station going, without financial support from the hospital, deserve huge praise.

Here's to another 40 years!

looking for GOD.com

Good will and peace from God our  
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ  
are yours!

1 Corinthians 1:3

tlc

tlcnorwich.com

## READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ Anne Marks, of Waxham, took this wonderful photo of a blue tit taking a dip in the bird bath. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit [www.iwitness24.co.uk](http://www.iwitness24.co.uk)

## Borrowing words offers plenty of food for thought

Peter  
Trudgill



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If you go to the excellent coffee bar in Jarrold's book department in Norwich and ask for a latte, you'll get a cup of coffee. If you go to a coffee bar in Milan and ask for a latte you'll probably get a glass of milk. You certainly won't get a cup of coffee. The Italian word "latte" means milk. "Latte" as used by English speakers is an abbreviation of Italian "caffè latte", which means 'coffee (with milk)'. We can only abbreviate it to latte because we don't know, most of us, what 'latte' means.

This is a common type of occurrence when words are borrowed from one language to another. (Linguists talk about languages "borrowing" words from others, even though there's no intention of giving them back!)

French speakers have borrowed our word "foot". But it doesn't mean foot to them – they've got their own word for that, pied. For French-speaking people, "le foot" means football. The French language borrowed our word football – we invented the game after all – and then abbreviated it. We couldn't have done that because, obviously, to us foot already means something else.

Funny things happen when words are



■ Delicious spaghetti - a plural in Italian - meaning little strings.

Picture: TONY BUCKINGHAM

borrowed. The French word "living" means a living room. "Lifting" means a face lift. In German, a "Smoking" is a dinner jacket. In Swedish a "fitness" is a gym.

The strangest thing of all is when languages borrow words which don't actually exist. The German word for a mobile phone is "Handy". It's a non-English English word.

We do similar things. The French term for cul-de-sac is not cul de sac but "voie sans issue", or "impasse". (We have borrowed the word impasse from them, but we only use it metaphorically to refer to a situation where no progress is possible, not to a street where you have to

turn round and go back.) The Italian word "panini" means sandwiches (plural), but we use it to mean a particular type of sandwich – if we had known about Italian grammar we would have said panino instead.

Spaghetti is also plural in Italian – it means little strings. We ought to say, really, "these spaghetti are very tasty". Vermicelli means little worms.

The Greek word for moussaka is moussakás, with the stress on the last syllable. The Greek word for taramasalata is taramasalata.

I could go on, except I'm now off to Jarrold's for a macchiato (that's Italian for "spotted").