

Eastern Daily Press

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Time to savour the glorious afterglow of a huge derby win

It was arguably the most important derby for both Norwich and Ipswich since the Milk Cup semi-final in 1985.

So there was little wonder that the tension was almost unbearable in the build-up to yesterday's Carrow Road clash.

A win was about so much more than the usual bragging rights.

This time, victory came with the prospect of taking a stride towards the Premier League – and, for Norwich, leapfrogging their rivals into the bargain.

Canaries fans are used to living on the edge of their seats, but this time things were a little more comfortable than expected.

For the players put in a performance of pride, passion, purpose and professionalism – garnished with a thunderbolt from Bradley Johnson and a splendidly scruffy steal from Lewis Grabban.

It was a deserved denouement for the magnificent Norwich supporters – and for manager Alex Neil, who has belied his relatively tender years by transforming the squad.

It is hard to praise him highly enough, coming as he has from relative obscurity to masterminding a team transformation and the taming of the Tractor Boys.

From listless in December, the players have become ruthless in recent weeks.

Four on the spin against Ipswich, six wins in a row in the league. Is something spectacular on the horizon?

It may be. But, for now, let's just enjoy the warm afterglow of yet another marvellous derby day.

Find our playing fields

The quest launched by the Fields in Trust organisation sounds a peculiar one. But is one of vital importance and which we wholeheartedly endorse.

It is looking to identify hundreds of "lost" playing fields, including more than a dozen in our region. For locals, these may not be "lost" in the normal sense – as it is greatly hoped that residents will know exactly where these sites are.

But unless they are recorded as part of this project, there is a danger that some may become lost in a more permanent sense.

The organisation's staff warn that they need to identify these locations to ensure they are legally protected from developers and are still able to serve the purpose for which they were created in the first place – to provide open spaces for the enjoyment of locals. We wish them luck and look forward to hearing of their progress.

Geared up for a storm

Thanks in part to EDP readers, who donated so generously to our Norfolk and Lowestoft Flood Appeal, the flood wardens of Wells now have radios which can send and receive information anywhere in the town.

Having the tools to do the job they did so well on the night of the great storm surge, despite a mobile phone blackout and power cut, is the least these selfless volunteers should expect.

READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ St Mary's Church in Bungay, bathed in warm light. Photograph by Andrew Atterwill. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit www.iwitness24.co.uk

Remarkable scientific discovery leads to toilet closures



The word toilet was originally a euphemism – it used to mean "a dressing room", which derived from an earlier sense "act of dressing" which in turn came from French toilette, "clothes bag", originally a diminutive of toile, "cloth", where toile came from Latin tela "something woven, a net".

Recently, local politicians have made a remarkable scientific discovery about such "dressing rooms" and us Norfolk people. They found out that we've developed to an evolutionary stage where we no longer need these antiquated toilette-ettes – a discovery which will surely soon be written up in major scientific journals.

Graham Plant was one of the earliest to notice this remarkable biological development, when he was a county councillor. He closed down the toilets at the Norwich Park and Ride sites because he reckoned that even elderly people could drive all the way from North Norfolk to visit Norwich and not need to go to the toilet when they arrived in Hellesdon or Sprowston. They could wait until they got into the city, even if the bus was late and the weather was very cold. Lavatories (original meaning: "washrooms") were now "frills" that could be dispensed with – though according to



■ Winterton on Sea's public toilet, which is set to close.

Picture: SUBMITTED/BOB ATEYO

the EDP there were a still a few people at a less advanced evolutionary stage who disappeared behind the bushes before the bus came.

Then Norwich City Council began to catch on. First they closed the toilets at the bottom of Grapes Hill, the top of St Stephen's, and St Andrew's Plain, to demonstrate we didn't need them; and then they shut the ones at Tombland and St Saviour's. They even put up a notice in City Hall informing us that, however much council tax we paid, we weren't allowed to use their toilets because obviously we no longer needed to.

Now, Great Yarmouth Council have also

belatedly realised how amazing we are, and they're closing down toilets too. The one by the beach in Winterton is now completely redundant as far as we're concerned.

We can spend all day on the beach or drive there from far away without needing to visit a public convenience. The building will doubtless still be standing there, as a monument to our biologically less evolved past, but it will be locked. I do wonder about holidaymakers from less fortunate parts of the country who have not yet overcome this feeble need to keep visiting a toilette-ette.

But we'll be OK.

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And hope does not disappoint,
because the love of God has been
poured out in our hearts through
the Holy Spirit.

Romans 5:5

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