

Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1870

New project gives our remarkable coastline real chance to shine

Head to Dorset or Devon and it won't be long before you see signs for the Jurassic Coast – England's first natural World Heritage Site.

They're very proud of their 95 miles of coastline and the way it shows a geological "walk through time", spanning the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods.

As well as being strikingly beautiful, it's where remarkable fossils have been found, such as the first complete ichthyosaur – a marine reptile which swam the oceans while dinosaurs walked on land.

All very interesting and a big draw for tourists. But isn't it time Norfolk gave it a run for its money?

After all, we've had some remarkable finds of our own on our coastline, not least the footprints found at Happisburgh in 2013 which rewrote the history books.

Those prints, now lost to the sea, were left there more than 800,000 years ago – the earliest outside Africa.

Consider those, and the West Runton elephant which was found in 1990, and there's a real opportunity to make more of the remarkable heritage of our coastline.

People are already drawn by our beautiful beaches, but this concept of Deep History Coast is one which has rich potential to bring even more people to our wonderful region.

Seeing the West Runton elephant in Norwich Castle Museum would be fantastic and museums in Cromer and Great Yarmouth could also be boosted.

The Happisburgh discovery showed the first tourists to Britain arrived in Norfolk.

This initiative could make sure many more follow in their footsteps.

Wonderful reception

World Down's Syndrome day was a wonderful opportunity to dispel a few preconceptions about this genetic condition.

Players from the Norwich City Down's Syndrome football team got a fantastic reception when they were introduced to the Carrow Road faithful at half-time in the match against Nottingham Forest.

It clearly meant a great deal to those young people and it was lovely to see them get such support from the fans.

And, after the final whistle, there was the premiere in Norwich of 12 life-affirming films about people with Down's Syndrome.

Those excellent films emphasise that people with Down's Syndrome are, first and foremost, people, with loves and hopes and passions just like everybody else. They are well worth a watch.

Celebrating cup heroes

Tomorrow marks the 30th anniversary of a unique achievement in Norwich City's 113-year history.

A team led by Ken Brown beat Sunderland 1-0 to record the Canaries' only ever victory at Wembley.

Fans will never forget their feat at the home of football and we are delighted to mark the anniversary with two days of special supplements.

On The Ball City!

looking for GOD.com

Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace.

2 Timothy 2:22

tlc

tlcnorwich.com

READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ Bathed in purple hues, this is Wellington Terrace, photographed by Melanie Turner just before sunrise on Lowestoft South Beach. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit www.iwitness24.co.uk

Familial words suggest there was parent language

Peter
Trudgill



email: newsdesk@archant.co.uk

About 230 years ago, Sir William Jones made an amazing intellectual breakthrough.

He was a gifted learner of languages, and by an early age had mastered Greek, Latin, Hebrew and Arabic. He even translated Persian into French. In 1783, arriving in Calcutta where he'd been appointed as a judge, he started learning Sanskrit, the classical language of northern India – one of the first Britons to do so.

He was astonished by what he found. Could it just be a coincidence that the Latin word "pater", Greek "patér" and Sanskrit "pitár" all meant father"; and that Latin "frater", Ancient Greek "phrater" and Sanskrit "bhratar" all meant brother"? After all, Sanskrit had been spoken 3,500 miles from Italy, the home of Latin. But the similarities were undeniable, especially in the grammar: Latin "est" (it is) was "asti" in Sanskrit; "sumus" (we are) was "smas"; and "sunt" (they are) was "santi".

In a famous lecture, Jones argued there was "a stronger affinity" between Sanskrit, Latin and Greek "than could possibly have been produced by accident". Others had also noticed this, but Jones' breakthrough was to state that the affinity



■ The Latin, ancient Greek and Sanskrit words for 'brother' all bear striking similarities.

was so strong that no linguist could examine the three languages "without believing them to have sprung from some common source, which, perhaps, no longer exists".

That was the big new idea: there was an earlier parent language which had since disappeared. Previously, scholars had misguidedly wondered which of the world's existing languages had been the "first" language – Hebrew was often mentioned. But Jones argued that the only way to explain these affinities, over such a large geographical area, was that there had once been an language which had gradually turned into Latin, Greek and Sanskrit – and Celtic, Iranian and Germanic – just as Latin had changed into the Romance languages Italian,

Spanish, Rumanian and French; and Sanskrit had turned into vernacular North Indian languages. Sanskrit ceased to be spoken as a native language around 500 BC, and morphed into languages like Hindi, Punjabi, Gujarati and Bengali.

From Irish in the west to Bengali in the east, Icelandic in the north to Greek in the south, most European languages, and many of those of west and south Asia, developed over time out of that same single source, which has now not existed for 5,000 years. Today we call it "Indo-European".

Sir William died in 1794, aged only 41. But he revolutionised our way of thinking about language history.