

Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1870

Academy will help to provide a lasting legacy for the young

The BBC Radio 1 Big Weekend will attract tens of thousands to Norwich next month for a spectacular weekend of music and entertainment.

The two-day festival will certainly put our fine city on the national map and previous events have seen millions of pounds pumped into the local economy of the host cities. We trust this will be the case here.

And there is a very welcome extra bonus with the announcement of the Big Weekend Academy being staged ahead of the main event.

A total of 7,000 young people will have a rare chance to enjoy a week of creative workshops.

Whether they are after a career in – or simply enjoy – music, DJing, journalism, production or television, there will be something on offer for everyone.

And some of the industry's biggest stars will be on hand to give out advice, including singer Ella Eyre, presenters Rick Edwards and Jake Humphrey and millionaire film maker Jamal Edwards.

It is hoped that the week-long programme can give young people something unique to put on their CVs, with a range of workshops, question-and-answer sessions and live music gigs – and even a session on digital journalism hosted by the Eastern Daily Press.

With jobs so hard to secure, particularly in the media and music industry, it could be a golden opportunity for our talented young people to get ahead of the game.

The Academy will ensure that there is a chance for a lasting legacy for our young people as well as a weekend to remember for music fans.

That should certainly be music to all of our ears.

Little ship's proud past

The pride, beauty and heritage of the lifeboat Lucy Lavers could be seen reflected in the faces of those at her prelaunch ceremony.

The plucky little ship's first call out was to save lives during the daring Dunkirk evacuation in the Second World War and now with the help of the public and the hard work of charity Rescue Wooden Boats she is once again set to make that journey.

It was great to see just how much it meant to everybody involved in her past, present and future to see her back to her former glory.

Our region has a strong maritime heritage and it is important to keep that alive whilst remembering the good work that is done by many brave men and women at sea.

Let's hope Lucy and her crew once again return safely to Norfolk where they belong.

Crucial week for City

The importance of Gary Hooper's late, late goal for the Canaries on Saturday will only become clear once the promotion places have been finalised.

But the super-sub's dramatic chip certainly kept Alex Neil's men in fine shape to make the jump back to the Premier League.

With two games in five days, it is now surely the biggest week of the season so far. On The Ball City!

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I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord. They are plans for peace and not disaster.
Jeremiah 29:11

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READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ Daybreak at Neatherd Moor, Dereham, photographed by Bob Caldwell. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit www.iwitness24.co.uk

Traumatic means by which Norfolk village was named

Peter
Trudgill



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My great-grandfather came from a south Norfolk village which, about 1,150 years ago, was the scene of a dramatic and probably rather traumatic event.

We know about this from the name of the village itself, Aslacton. In Norfolk, most of our place-names are Anglo-Saxon.

They are composed of elements made up of Old English words such as -ham (homestead), and -ton (enclosure). You can see this in names such as Wals-ham and Run-ton, where the first elements come from names of Anglian leaders like Walh and Runi.

Norfolk also has some names of Scandinavian origin. These use elements made up of words from the Old Norse language of the later Viking colonisers, such as -by (settlement). They include names such as Scratby and Mautby, where the first elements are from names of Danish leaders like Skrauti and Malti. Research suggests that these Scandinavian place names are often found in locations which were less readily habitable than those which had already been taken by the Angles

But there are a few names which have a more complicated history and which indi-



■ St Michael's Church in Aslacton.

Picture: DENISE BRADLEY

cate that the Danes did not always settle on virgin territory. These names end in an Old English element like -ton, but begin with a leader's name which is not English but Norse. Aslacton is one of these: Aslak was, and still is, a Scandinavian man's name.

These hybrid names came about because of The Great Heathen Army, as the Anglo-Saxons fearfully called it. That was how our Anglian ancestors referred to the very large Viking army which landed on the East Anglian coast in 865, intent on conquering the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms.

The army spent their first winter at Thetford and then marched north to take control of York. But in 869 they returned,

and defeated and killed the East Anglian king Edmund. The invaders then remained in control of East Anglia for 50 years until it was retaken by the English in 918.

After they had seized East Anglia, the men of the Great Viking Army shared out the land which they now had under their control. After four centuries of Anglian ownership, the south Norfolk village which was later to be my great-grandfather's home fell to the Vikings.

And its dispossessed English Christian population came under the rule of alien warriors led by a pagan called Aslak.

The inhabitants of the village we now call Aslacton probably weren't very happy.