

# Eastern Daily Press

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## Congratulations to royal couple after birth of daughter

Any birth is a cause for celebration. But the latest addition to one particular Norfolk family over the weekend prompted more than most. And little wonder.

The EDP today adds its congratulations to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and looks forward to their return to their family home, at Anmer Hall, with the cherubic Prince George and his newborn sister.

That the Royal couple have chosen this peaceful corner of west Norfolk, above anywhere else in the entire country, in which to bring up their young family may surprise some of the observers and commentators from around the world who have spent the weekend analysing every minute aspect of this birth.

But for those of us who live here, their choice is an entirely obvious one, that underlines the wisdom of this young couple.

One need only look through today's newspaper to see some of the region's qualities. It is hard to keep track of the number of wonderful events on which we report today.

Tens of thousands of you have been out and about enjoying our region, from the runners in King's Lynn and Norwich to the cyclists at Holkham and those attending events in, among other places, Stradsett, Bungay, Horning and Great Yarmouth.

The incredible range and diversity of what has been on offer is a timely reminder of some of the things that make this such a great place to live.

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge have made a wonderful choice of where to raise their children and we look forward to welcoming them all back home soon.

## Save our night skies

Our region has countless qualities, which we celebrate and champion. One we perhaps often overlook is the one above us, every single night.

Our stunning night skies are the envy of the country. There are few places left which still offer quite such enchanting natural, nightly shows – cloud permitting!

Of course, from the centre of Norwich, or some of our other larger towns, these splendours above can be slightly harder to enjoy. But residents need travel barely a mile out of these more built-up areas to find themselves in darker, rural spots from where they are once again able to experience the dazzling beauty of our night skies.

Yet we must not take our good fortune in East Anglia for granted. The night sky is imperilled. We need people and public bodies, to remain vigilant and fight for it.

## An uphill struggle

This newspaper will always root for those facing a tough challenge, tall odds, an uphill struggle.

So we wish Mark Jones well in his very challenging quest to chart East Anglia's "hidden" heights. It is his ambition to scour this notoriously flat landscape in search of its largest, most impressive hills.

We applaud his efforts to highlight a side of our region which it is not known for. It may also go some way to dispel the myth that ours is a landscape without contours. And even if he is not successful in finding these "missing mountains", then never mind. For who needs heights when you have views?

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Jesus told them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never become hungry."

John 6:35 tlcnorwich.com



## READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ A walk through a golden sea of rape under stormy April skies at Alby was captured by Jennifer Wright. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit [www.iwitness24.co.uk](http://www.iwitness24.co.uk)

## How familiar place names have evolved over centuries

Peter  
Trudgill



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There is an old Norfolk rhyme which goes: "Gimmingham, Trimmingham, Knapton and Trunch, Nurreps and Surreps, all in a bunch". Nurreps and Surreps are the correct modern local pronunciations of the village names Northrepps and Southrepps – in the Domesday Book of 1086 they are written Norreppes and Sutareps.

Five of these six place names have very straightforward histories. The endings -ingham "home of the people of" and -ton "enclosure, settlement" are found in very many Norfolk names; and Repps comes from an Anglo-Saxon word meaning "strip of woodland". But Trunch is mysterious.

We do know that the name appeared in a longer form, Trunchet, in the Domesday Book. Professor Ekwall, the great Swedish expert on English place names, thought that it might very well be a Celtic name.

If so, its earliest form would have been Truncet, where the first part has the same Celtic root as Welsh trwyn "promontory, nose", and the second has the same root as Welsh coed "wood". (Betws-y-Coed in North Wales is 'prayer-house in the wood'.) Truncet "wood on a promontory" over time became Trunchet in the mouths of Old English speakers, and eventually



■ The village sign at Trunch - Professor Peter Trudgill explains the origins of the village's name.

Picture: ANTONY KELLY

the -et was lost. Coed is cognate with the English word heath. Cognates are words in different languages which come from the same original source: if someone told you that the Dutch word "moeder" and English "mother" are cognates, you would not be even slightly surprised. It is much less obvious that coed and heath come from the same source – but they do!

The source for these two words was Indo-European kait, which in our ancient ancestral language meant "forest, wasteland".

The relationship between them is obscured because Welsh has retained the original k sound from kait in coed, while English heath has h. It was a

characteristic of our parent Germanic language that Indo-European k sounds changed to h. This is why we have horn, corresponding to Latin cornu, French corne (which we have borrowed in the form of cornet). Similarly, we have hound, corresponding to Latin canis "dog", as in canine. And hund-red is cognate with Latin cent-um and Welsh cant. Taking other regular sound changes into consideration, there is no doubting that coed and heath are related.

Not far down the road from Trunch, near North Walsham, is Witton Heath. There is a strong probability that the Heath in Witton Heath and the -ch in Trunch were originally the same word.