

Eastern Daily Press

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SINCE 1870

A wonderful way to secure a return to Wembley Stadium

It's been 30 long years, but Norwich City are finally returning to Wembley. And what an amazing way to do it.

To be going to the home of football, to pursue the prize of a rapid return to the excitement, not to mention riches, of the Premier League is glorious enough.

But to have done it with a thrilling, if at times nerve-shredding, Carrow Road victory against Ipswich Town is pure footballing joy for the Yellow Army.

Football means so much to so many in this county. Fans travel from all corners of Norfolk (and in some cases, much further afield) to follow Alex Neil's team.

It's been a bizarre decade or so to be a Norwich City supporter, with huge highs, including three promotions and horrible lows.

Fans have endured the crushing relegation to League One and the heartache of that awful penalty defeat at the hands of Birmingham in 2002's play-off final at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium.

It's certainly not been dull and predictable, that's for sure. And you'd be a fool to predict what will happen on the pitch when the Canaries take on Middlesbrough in London on bank holiday Monday.

Middlesbrough, who finished one place below Norwich City, have had an excellent season of their own.

Unfancied at the start of the campaign, they spent much of the season in and around the top slots and defeated the Canaries on Teesside and at Carrow Road.

But all that will go out of the window when the teams walk out onto that Wembley turf.

And anyone who remembers the Milk Cup final victory of 1985, or, despite the defeat, that play-off final in Wales, will know that lots of Norwich City fans in one place can make a heck of a racket.

Fans might have a bit of a tricky time getting back, if the rail strike continues, but they'll find a way. Coach operators will be playing their part to ferry fans there and back. Victory over Middlesbrough would go a long way to helping forget any travel woes.

It promises to be a truly fantastic occasion, and one which will be talked about for years and years.

Let us just hope it is remembered with the same fondness people will have, in years to come, for the triumph over Ipswich Town which got us there.

On The Ball City!

More support needed

Being diagnosed with dementia is a frightening and often overwhelming experience.

With fears for the future and no certain information on what is to come, those forced to live with the disease and their loved ones can often feel as though they are entirely on their own, fighting a battle with an unknown enemy.

So plans announced today to at least make sure that people are prepared, as much as possible, for what lies ahead will surely be welcomed by those who have experienced dementia.

Of course, it won't ease the strain the condition brings or make the news any easier to bear, but it can give families more of a sense of what is yet to come – and, most importantly, where they can turn to when times get tough.

This week is Dementia Awareness Week, so now is a good time for us to learn about this awful condition.

lookingforGOD.com

You have done many miraculous things, O Lord my God. You have made many wonderful plans for us. No one compares to you! Psalm 40:5 tlnorwich.com



READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ A hare reveals itself briefly to keep a close eye on proceedings in this delightful picture by Andy Brown. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit www.iwitness24.co.uk

There's nothing wrong with writing like what we talk

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Until recently, no one in Norfolk would have thought about writing in their local dialect. What I mean is, they wouldn't have thought about it because they would have just gone ahead and done it.

That wasn't so very long ago that Lord Nelson was writing in his log that "Captain Lambert have been very fortunate". That was what everybody done in them days.

Speech come before writing. All the languages in the world was spoken long before they was written; and most on 'em still in't written down. Children learn to speak before they learn to write. And many people in the world never learn to read and write at all. For nearly all of human history, there weren't no such thing as writing. Human language developed about 200,000 years ago, and writing weren't invented until 195,000 years later.

When writing did first develop, what people naturally done was to write like what they spoke. What else was they a-going to do? Writing is just the representation of speech in a more permanent medium, and so they writ down what they would've said if they had been a-talking.

But now a different practice have evolved: people are encouraged not to



■ Horatio Nelson would have wrote like what he spoke.

write like what they speak – unless they come from the upper social classes. The upper classes speak Standard English as their native dialect; and the rest on us are encouraged to write in their dialect, not in our own. The idea seem to be that uniformity is a good thing. But this is a very new idea, and that in't totally obvious that that's a good one. That make for problems for children who have to learn to read and write in a kind of language that in't their own.

Of course, there are still writers what use their native dialect. But we have a long

way to go before we get to the level of dialect use reached in Norway, where that's not unusual for serious novels and poetry to be in dialect. The problem is that local dialects are often looked down on as inferior – even though from a linguistic point of view they definitely in't. And writing in a local dialect is often considered to be eccentric – even though from a historical point of view that most certainly in't.

But whatever can be written in Standard English can be written in dialect too, like what I've done here.