

# Eastern Daily Press

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## Tragic news brings home the horror of Tunisian massacre

Today's devastating news that a man from the Lowestoft area died in Friday's terrorist attack in Tunisia brings home the full tragedy of this horrific massacre.

Stuart Cullen's family now has to come to terms with his sudden and violent death, while his wife recovers from her injuries. The family is being supported by Suffolk Police, and has asked for their privacy to be respected at this time. Our hearts go out to them, and we can only express our deepest condolences on their loss.

Other people in our region have also been affected – including a Suffolk man who is unaccounted for, some who were injured, others who narrowly escaped death, and more who witnessed either the atrocity, or its devastating aftermath. There are many more who are supporting loved ones affected in these ways.

With time, many of the physical injuries will heal. The mental scars of those who have been traumatised are certain to last much longer.

Sadly, we must be braced for more bad news to emerge from the slaughter in Sousse, as the number of Britons who are known to have died seems likely to rise.

This is the worst act of terrorism to hit our country since that terrible day in July 2005 when London's transport system came under attack.

As a country, we have faced terrorism from one source or another for many decades. There will undoubtedly be more terrible days to come. But as a country we will continue to respond as we have through the years: with compassion and support for the victims, with a stoic resolve to uphold the way of life that we treasure, and with unswerving determination to bring to justice those who commit such mindless and inhumane atrocities.

## Food hygiene matters

Today, we can reveal that nearly one in 10 eateries in our region have failed to meet acceptable food hygiene standards so far this year.

According to our analysis of data from more than 1,500 inspections carried out in Norfolk and Suffolk, 9pc received unacceptable grades.

But it is important to recognise that the vast majority of our eateries scored well, and the average score across the region on the five-star scale was 4.3.

We recognise how difficult it is to run a businesses in the current climate, so we have taken the decision not to name and shame those premises who have performed badly.

We want to give them a chance to put right the issues that the inspectors have identified, and, if they have improved by the time we next analyse the data in six months, we will not publicly shame them.

## A very fond farewell

What a display! Yesterday hundreds of people craned their necks to see a Cold War legend make its final appearance, and bid it a fond farewell. During that most terrifying of conflicts, the Vulcan bomber helped protect us from the threat from the east. Now, the final Vulcan in the skies is preparing to be grounded for good, and yesterday passed through our skies for one last time. Vulcan XH558, you have served us well. Thank you.

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He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

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## READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ A classic view of Norwich taken from Mousehold by Peter Jarvis. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit [www.iwitness24.co.uk](http://www.iwitness24.co.uk)

## Have you fathomed the roots of our measurements?

Peter Trudgill



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Our word "foot" comes from Anglo-Saxon fot, and is related to Norwegian and Swedish fot, Danish fod, Dutch and Afrikaans voet, West Frisian foet, North Frisian fōtj, German fuss, and Low German foot. It's an ancient Germanic word for an important part of our anatomy.

It is also an ancient natural unit of measurement, based on the length of the foot of a typical adult male. And a twelfth of a foot is called an inch, which is often taken to be equivalent to the width of a man's thumb.

Another natural unit of measurement is the fathom, which was originally the length of the outstretched arms, from fingertip to fingertip. A fathom is equivalent to six feet, and these days it's mostly used in measuring the depth of water. It, too, is an old Germanic word, and is related to the modern Swedish verb famna, which means to embrace.

In western Europe, natural measurements of this type disappeared in those countries which were conquered by Napoleon, who imposed the new and more logical – but less natural – metric system on them. In Britain we were not conquered, and so we could choose to stay



■ Some of us talk in feet and inches – others have embraced millimetres and metres.

Picture: LIBRARY

with the same natural measurement system which had served us so well for more than a thousand years.

But even in many of those nations which were not able to hold out against Bonaparte, the foot and inch and fathom as units of measurement still survive today, 200 years after Waterloo. Scandinavian carpenters may still talk in "thumbs" or inches. In Norway, the length of a boat is always still quoted in feet. In Sweden, the depth of the sea is often measured in fathoms. Internationally, too, it is still widespread practice to give the height at which aeroplanes are flying in feet.

It is the intuitive naturalness of measurements like inch, foot and fathom which make them hard to get rid of. We like them because we can relate to them.

The other day I was in a stationery shop in Norwich, buying some folders.

The young woman serving me showed me the folders they had, and I wanted to know if they were the right size. I asked how many inches wide they were. She said "I don't know anything about feet and inches" and gave me the dimensions in millimetres.

Then I asked her how tall she was. "Five foot seven," she replied.