

Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1870

Time to take issue of cyber-bullying far more seriously

Years ago, the school bully might give you a slap and steal your dinner money or call you names in the playground. But when you got home, you'd be safe.

Today's youngsters have nowhere to hide from the so-called cyber-bullies, who can target them wherever they are via text message, Twitter or Facebook.

It is worrying news indeed that a survey shows that 38pc of 10 to 15-year-olds in Norfolk have suffered at their hands and attacks are on the increase. More than half of them were targeted by text messages.

Bullies can also "troll" their victims anonymously, by setting up a fake online identity.

Modern technology we all take for granted also means it is easier than it has ever been for children to be nasty to each other.

Clearly, more needs to be done to educate young people in how to stay safe by choosing their online friends with care and being careful who they communicate with.

Parents need to take the risks on board, as well as teachers, and talk to their children about the dangers.

Last but not least, the mobile phone and tablet industry, which makes so many millions and millions from our deft-fingered youngsters' seemingly constant tweets and texting, also has its part to play in making cyberspace safer.

Blocking those who abuse should be simple and straightforward, regardless of platform or device. One click, goodnight, go away.

Network operators should also invest some of their profits into setting up a task force to investigate bullying claims promptly, collate evidence and pass it on to the police.

A national treasure

Cilla Black was one of a handful of entertainers who truly bridged the generations.

From her early beginnings as a young singer in Liverpool, to her later years in light entertainment, Cilla was a household name for decades.

Her warmth and humour helped her to make the successful transition from the music industry to working in television and she rightly became a national treasure.

While older readers will fondly remember her chart-topping days, many others across Norfolk will have grown up watching her on their television screens in *Blind Date* or *Surprise, Surprise*.

The tributes pouring in show how Cilla influenced countless of today's performers thanks to the trail she blazed with her career.

She will be missed.

A great place to live

Our region is a great place for people of all ages to live, so it is surely no surprise to see it is ranked as one of the best places for people to retire to. Beautiful countryside, a stunning coastline, and a rich cultural scene, are just some of our region's many charms, and all of these and more are great ingredients for a happy and relaxed retirement. No matter how old we are, we should all be proud to call such a wonderful place our home.

looking for GOD.com

Whoever finds their life will lose it,
and whoever loses their life for my
sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39 tlcnorwich.com



READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ A hare on the run in Bungay, as photographed by Frances Crickmore. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit www.iwitness24.co.uk

What's in a Christian name that can be used for either sex?

Peter
Trudgill



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It is rather well known that the famous English novelist Evelyn Waugh was once briefly married to a woman who was also called Evelyn.

The couple were known to their friends as he-Evelyn and she-Evelyn.

This was an unusual situation, since in our culture it is normal for given names to be gender specific – it is obviously helpful to be able to tell what sex someone is from their name.

I am made very aware of this if someone writes to me from, say, Japan, where names are totally unrelated to the ones we know.

Is a Japanese person called Kazuhiko a man or a woman? Similarly, is a Finn with the name of Terttu male or female? What about a Thai person called Nattapong?

But there are a number of English language names which can be equally confusing. We have just noted Evelyn. Hilary is another.

The famous British novelist Hilary Mantel is female, but the famous British politician Hilary Benn is male.

The American actor and comedian Robin Williams was a man, but in the USA Robin is much more often a woman's name – even though it was originally a diminutive



■ Same name, different sex - novelist Hilary Mantel and the politician Hilary Benn. Hilary was a boy's name for centuries and only began to be given to girls fairly recently.

form of Robert – and it is almost entirely used for boys and men over here.

How did we end up with ambiguous names like Robin and Evelyn and Hilary? Why wouldn't we try to avoid the confusion that this might produce? Well, there is a very interesting pattern to this development.

Nearly all of our ambiguous names started off being given to boys and were only later transferred to girls.

Hilary was a boy's name for centuries and only began to be given to girls fairly recently – the transfer has been fairly rapid and is now almost complete, so that today it is Mr Benn's name that surprises us, not Ms Mantel's.

There are several other originally male names which have become ambiguous or even gone over to being entirely female: Ashley, Beverly, Joyce, Leslie, Lindsey ...

Why is this? Why do parents give boys' names to girls, but not girls' names to boys?

Notice that we do this especially with the shortened, familiar forms of names. There are plenty of girls these days who, whatever their official names, are known to their friends as Sam, or Eddy, or Stevie, or Charley.

But, except in the well-known Johnny Cash song, there are absolutely no boys named Sue.