

# Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1870

## Halloween social media blitz shows force is stretched

The recent explosion in the use of social media by police officers has made the thin blue line even thinner, but Saturday evening was a new chapter.

Twitter users tuned in to the Norfolk Live hashtag were exposed to officers' work across the county, ranging from selfies with costumed revellers, to live video of emergency call outs.

At times humorous, at others exhilarating, the lasting impression was made by the sheer volume of calls.

Halloween is always a busy time of year for officers, the cocktail of fancy dress and alcohol calling for extra vigilance and resources.

And when it falls on a Saturday night, areas such as Norwich's Prince of Wales road explode with activity.

As the night unfolded, the challenge facing officers become clear.

While the vast majority of party-goers enjoyed a night of ghoulish fun, some were left frustrated by being unable to enter clubs filled to capacity, while queues for taxis snaked into the street.

Clearly at breaking point, officers made pleas for people to avoid the area and go home, as extra resources were called in, and officers' shifts extended.

The county's chief constable, Simon Bailey, warned last week that a £9.3m funding gap would mean less police officers on the streets.

And while nights like Saturday may not be the norm, our county's forces must be able to respond to whatever is thrown at them.

Halloween may have been a night of ghouls and ghosts, but more cuts could make the future of our emergency services a much scarier prospect.

## Line ready for upgrade

The dualling of the A11 condemned the 'raising the drawbridge' attitude still held in some quarters of Norfolk to the dustbin of history.

And today's calls from George Freeman to create an 'Innovation Express' rail link between Norwich and Cambridge are an extension of that spirit.

As it stands, the world class technology, business and science at both ends of the route is not matched by the service. Bringing the line up to scratch could put the transport corridor on the fast track to being a hub for jobs, ideas and development.

In a world where connectivity is paramount, any outlay on the scheme would be paid back in spades.

And while the two cities book-ending the line would see the biggest windfall, the wider benefits for each and every town along the route are tantalising.

## Farm review welcomed

The review of Norfolk County Council's farm estates, as revealed today in an exclusive EDP report, is to be welcomed.

Concerns over the governance of the estate, which generates £1.7m a year for the authority, have been raised.

And it is good to see that the authority is taking those concerns seriously by ordering the review.

It is important that the public can have confidence in this valuable asset.

Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall.

(Psalm 55:22)

www.tlcnorwich.com



## READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ An autumn morning in beautiful Happisburgh by Stuart Hipper. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit [www.iwitness24.co.uk](http://www.iwitness24.co.uk)

## When City and Town fans shared a sense of solidarity

Peter Trudgill



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The first year I was studying at Cambridge University, long ago, I was the only student from Norwich in my college.

But at the beginning of my second academic year, one night at dinner, I overheard a boy down the table from me talking in a way which seemed very familiar.

He sounded rather like me when he spoke. His accent was by no means identical to mine: he pronounced words like boat, out, and hour, differently from me.

But there was a lot in common, and I felt an immediate affinity with him. I sought him out after dinner and we had a chat – and he told me that he came from Ipswich. So that explained it!

I had never been to Ipswich at the time, and I hadn't actually recognised his accent for what it was.

But I had correctly recognised that there was something distinctively East Anglian about his way of speaking.

Whenever we met each other after that, he would call me "Norwich" and I would call him "Ipswich".

There was a kind of bond between us, surrounded as we were by students from the Home Counties and the North, who



■ Peter Trudgill remembers the days when Norwich supporters would support Ipswich against any team other than the Canaries. Picture: PA

greatly outnumbered us.

As I recall it, in the 1950s and 1960s, there was also a similar kind of affinity operating in the realm of football in East Anglia.

If Norwich City and Ipswich Town were playing each other, that was the biggest match of the season and it was the one which we, the Norwich supporters, wanted to win more than any other.

But, otherwise, we wanted Ipswich to win. If they were playing Arsenal or Manchester United, we wanted Ipswich to slaughter them.

We were pleased when they won the league and the FA Cup.

What we felt was an East Anglian solidarity in the face of opposition from the metropolitan and other big city clubs.

Younger people will doubtless find this hard, even impossible, to believe, because we have since been encouraged over the past many decades to ape the tribal antagonisms of the fans of United vs City, and Liverpool vs Everton, and Spurs vs Arsenal: we are supposed to feel that a football match against a club from a place 45 miles away is a "local derby".

But in those days the feelings of East Anglian solidarity were real enough, and we were none the worse for it.