

# Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1870

## Let us show that we stand united in the face of terrorism

The attacks on Paris have prompted a worldwide outpouring of sympathy and support for the French.

As we report today the people of East Anglia are showing their solidarity with our friends across the English Channel, with messages of strength, hope, and love challenging the faces of evil.

This is a time for grieving, mourning, crying, and paying dignified tribute to those who died.

But - in the oncoming months - when the world moves on from this attack, it is vital that we do not let the despicable actions of the few stand in the way of the way we do things. If we start living in fear the extremists have won.

That's not to say we shouldn't be mindful of the threats posed by warped individuals with weapons in their hands, but we must not hide.

Don't cancel your holiday to Paris, or that weekend away in Nice, or even your ticket to Euro 2016.

We can't let the terrorists instil a culture of fear in our lives.

It is equally important to remember that the vile people behind this attack, and those in Lebanon and Iraq last week, do not in any way represent the religion they claim to follow. Experience has taught Muslims across the world to live in fear of reprisals after massacres have been carried out in the name of Allah, but we have a duty to show their worries are unfounded.

Only through a deeper understanding and mutual respect between cultures will these attacks eventually cease. Edmund Burke said: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

We must show the terrorists we stand only more united and determined in the wake of their atrocities.

## A season for caution

It might be the most wonderful time of the year for many, but Christmas is also a time for gift getters to guard against having their yuletide spirit dented by goods which might not be what they seem.

Shoppers in the county are being warned after suspected dangerous toys and counterfeit clothes were seized following a raid on a Christmas pop-up shop in Norwich.

People looking to start their festive shopping might do well to heed advice from trading standards to take a bit of care, or run the risk of landing their loved one with a gift which could be fake or unsafe.

Pop-up shops are becoming more and more popular, help boost the local economy, provide jobs and can give customers even greater choice but there are risks too, just as this trading standards visit has highlighted.

## Project is good news

Norfolk's ageing population is well documented.

Therefore the news that the county's older residents can benefit from a £545,000 heritage scheme is very welcome.

It is vital that our society gives the elderly every opportunity to keep their brains active and stimulated - and this project will do just that.

What is needed now is for volunteers to come forward to help run this exciting new scheme.

The benefits will hopefully be noticeable.

Come, let us bow down in  
worship, let us kneel before the  
Lord our Maker.

(Psalm 95:6)

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## READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

# iwitness24



■ Splashes of pink among the rich golden tones of autumn - flamingos paddling in the autumn sun at Pensthorpe. Picture by Fay Neale. If you have a photograph you would like considered for publication, you can send it to us via the website [www.iwitness24.co.uk](http://www.iwitness24.co.uk)

## Ridiculous theory on Aussie accents should be forgotten

Peter  
Trudgill



email: [newsdesk@archant.co.uk](mailto:newsdesk@archant.co.uk)

It is a frequent complaint of mine that people who are ignorant about language nevertheless feel free to pontificate about it in public places.

Some individuals who have never studied linguistics, and who know nothing about language - except how to speak one - seem entirely happy to pronounce on the subject in the media as if with authority.

We've recently had a ludicrous example of this phenomenon from Australia. A self-proclaimed expert on public speaking in Melbourne has gone public with one of the most preposterous linguistic "theories" of all time.

You really don't want to know the name of the gentleman who invented this outlandish story because hopefully you'll never hear of him again. As has been widely reported in the British national press, he has stated in all seriousness that the Australian English accent has an unusual origin. According to his laughable view, the Australian accent developed because the original English-speaking Australians were so drunk all the time that their speech became permanently slurred. This slurred way of speaking was then passed on to infants, and so down to subsequent generations.



■ Sydney harbour in Australia. Picture: PA

One Australian linguistics professor has described this view, with admirable restraint, as "absolute nonsense". Linguistic scientists are unanimously agreed that this whole idea is ridiculous. But this sort of sensational garbage gets reported in the international news media in a way that serious linguistic research generally does not.

For a start, there's nothing "slurred" about Australian English. And we do know what the origins of the Australian accent are. Several academics, including me, have carried out research and taught courses and written books on the origins of colonial varieties of English generally. Our investigations show that Australian English was initially the outcome of the

mixing of the different British Isles dialects of the first three generations of settlers. It has some features which are fairly obviously East Anglian in origin, for instance: we pronounce "roses" and "Rosa's" the same, and so do Aussies; Londoners do not - they pronounce "roses" as "ro-zizz".

Then, of course, after the mixture had sorted itself out, there have been several subsequent generations of different natural linguistic changes in Britain and in Australia which have taken the two varieties of English further apart.

The trouble is that the sober reporting of this type of careful research is not interesting to much of the international media. Happily, the EDP is different.