

Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1870

Emergency services deserve praise for life-saving efforts

It's a sobering thought that, while many of us in Norfolk and Suffolk were spending Christmas in the company of our families, people in the north of England have been enduring a nightmare.

Rather than relaxing to tuck into the turkey leftovers, families in West Yorkshire and Lancashire spent Boxing Day being rescued from their homes, as flooding hit Leeds, Greater Manchester and York.

It came just days after communities in Cumbria once again suffered the heartache of seeing flood water surging into their homes.

People in Norfolk and Suffolk, parts of which know only too well the devastation which flooding can cause, will surely sympathise with their plight.

The volunteers and emergency services deserve praise for their efforts to make sure lives were saved. Norfolk's own urban search and rescue team were among those doing sterling work to safeguard people.

Liz Truss, environment secretary and one of Norfolk's MPs, has promised that the government will conduct a review of the flood defences which had been "overwhelmed".

It is absolutely essential that the review happens. And what is vital is that politicians of all hues come together to work out a long-term strategy for dealing with the issue.

Flooding of this kind seems to be happening more and more frequently.

It is not good enough to pledge extra money after the event. Investment needs to be made while the sun is shining, not simply as a reaction when the heavens open.

Surprise appointment

It's fair to say the appointment of former Labour MP Ed Balls as Norwich City's new chairman came as rather a shock.

In years gone by, the Carrow Road role has been filled by local businessmen. The likes of Robert Chase, Geoffrey Watling (whose legacy features in another story in today's paper), Roger Munby and Alan Bowkett have all taken the helm, with varying degrees of success.

But now the Canaries have surely become the first football club to make a former shadow chancellor the chairman.

It's an appointment which provoked quite a reaction among fans – not all are thrilled with Mr Balls' arrival.

But whatever you think of his politics, Norwich-born Mr Balls is, after all, a lifelong Canaries fan.

He deserves a chance to show what he can do.

Treasures uncovered

Norfolk boasts some tremendous museums and it's fascinating to learn more about some of the acquisitions which have been made over the past year.

The county is a hotbed for archaeological discoveries, and it is essential that efforts are made to try to keep some of those finds in the county.

As John Davies, from the museums service, says – future generations deserve to study and enjoy them.

Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice.

Proverbs 27:9



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READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ An enjoyable trip to Sea Palling beach by David Harper. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit www.iwitness24.co.uk

It's a long way from warehouses to chic bedrooms

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My grandfather was born in Wiveton in the 1880s. I think he might have been rather puzzled to see that the Wiveton Bell, the excellent village pub there, is now advertising "boutique bedrooms".

I'm rather sure that he wouldn't have known what boutique meant – I never encountered the word myself until I started studying French at school at the age of 11. Then I learnt that boutique was the French word for shop.

But now we can all be puzzled. What have French shops got to do with bedrooms in village inns?

It doesn't help to learn that boutique meaning "shop" came into English from French in the late 1700s. But it may help a little to know, as we shall see shortly, that it most usually referred to small shops. The word had originally come into French from Provençal, the language of southern France, in the form of botica. The equivalent word in Italian was bottega, also meaning "shop". Botica and bottega both descended from Latin, the parent language of French and Italian. The Latin form was apotheca, which meant storehouse.

The Latin word itself had been borrowed from Ancient Greek. The Modern Greek



■ The Wiveton Bell pub is advertising boutique bedrooms.

Picture: ANTONY KELLY

word for warehouse is still apothiki, which relates to the verb apo-theto, where apo means "from" and theto means "to place" – so "to put away, to place in storage".

Greek apothiki was also the source of the archaic English apothecary, a word which meant, as you may well know, pharmacist. Originally an apothecary was someone who ran an apothec, which was a store – but particularly a store for medicines. In 1950s America, the English word boutique started acquiring the more specialised meaning of a shop – especially a clothes shop – which was not just small but also specialised, trend-setting and fashionable. Then in the 1960s

it also began to be used as an adjective referring to items which were offered for sale by such small, exclusive businesses – boutique shoes, for example. And since the 1980s it's been increasingly employed to describe small businesses – especially hotels – which provide services for a small, exclusive, sophisticated clientele.

My grandfather knew perfectly well what a warehouse was. But many things have happened during the two and a half thousand year journey in which apothiki has travelled from Athens to Wiveton. We can be sure that the rooms in The Bell are not labelled boutique because they resemble warehouses – not even ancient Greek warehouses.