

# Eastern Daily Press

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## Questions over the right care must keep on being asked

There are few tougher decisions to make in life than deciding whether it's time for you or a loved one to go into a care home.

Emotions will always run high, be it because your relative has had to spend time in hospital, faces having to lose their home or is struggling to cope with the idea of losing some of their independence.

It is vital, therefore, an organisation like the Care Quality Commission (CQC) is on hand so that people can be reassured the home they choose is of a good quality.

Equally, anyone who decides to go into the care home sector, should do so in the knowledge they must meet certain standards and live up to certain expectations.

That said, claims from those who run the homes that the CQC has become too tough in order to cover its own back are concerning and should not be taken lightly by the organisation itself. If that is found to be the case, it simply risks deepening the problems facing the sector, by forcing people out for no good reason.

Ultimately, Norfolk County Council's intention to keep people in their homes for longer is a good one and deserves support. However, it also needs to make sure adequate steps are in place so the needs of those who would have previously been in a home are still met.

It really would be betraying our elderly if they have to spend hours on their own at home not being properly looked after because the system is not fit for purpose.

This is such a complex issue and one in which there are no easy answers. That's why it's vital the right questions about the future of care keep on being asked.

## Joint effort needed

In the hours after the electorate returned prime minister David Cameron to Downing Street, he stood on the steps of Number 10 and said he would govern as a party of one nation.

"It means giving everyone in our country a chance so that no matter where you're from you have the opportunity to make the most of your life. It means giving the poorest people the chance of training, a job, and hope for the future," he said.

The new index, drawn up by the Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission, suggests that in our region this is far from a reality. In fact, our poorest youngsters are among the least likely to improve their prospects in the country. Work is already being done to address this, but this latest report suggests there is much more to do.

But policy makers at both a local and national level must reassess their resources – are there enough and are they in the right place? It will take a joint effort from politicians of all shades, employers, educators and volunteers if we are to really turn this around.

## Farewell to Sir Terry

He was one of the nation's most treasured broadcasters, adored by generations for his warmth and wit.

Whether it was his wry Eurovision put-downs, his good-humoured Children in Need presenting or the unmistakable familiarity of his smooth voice on the airwaves, Sir Terry earned a place in hearts around the globe.

The cherished presenter will be sadly missed and our thoughts are today with his family and friends.

May the favour of the Lord our God  
rest on us; establish the work of  
our hands for us – yes, establish  
the work of our hands.

Psalms 90:17

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## READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

# iwitness24



■ Heron at Strumpshaw. Picture by David Thacker. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit [www.iwitness24.co.uk](http://www.iwitness24.co.uk)

## Mawther - a word associated with region for centuries

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Most people in Norfolk and Suffolk know what mawther means – it's our word for a young female person. It is rather perplexing, though, that nobody is very sure what the origin of the word is. And, interestingly, mawther is not the only word for girl whose origins are problematical.

In Scotland and Northumberland, the everyday word for girl is lassie; and in Cumbria, Yorkshire, Durham, and parts of Lancs, Notts, Derbyshire, and Lincolnshire, the dialect word is lass.

As with mawther, the origin of lass is uncertain, but it may come from Old Norse lasqa "unmarried", which perhaps had some connection with "loose".

From southern Lancs down along the western part of England as far as Hereford and northern Gloucester, people say wench, or used to.

All over Britain people still know this word, but it is mostly used in joking



■ These young girls pictured at school in 1973 would not have been surprised to be referred to as 'mawthers'. Picture: LIBRARY

contexts. Wench is a shortened form of medieval English wenchel, which may be related to an old word wankle "to totter".

Originally it applied to children of both sexes.

Maid was the normal form for girl in southern Gloucester; Oxford, Wiltshire, Somerset, Dorset, Devon and

Cornwall, and Pembrokeshire.

The word has since come to have another meaning, but the earlier longer form, maiden, meant young female person or virgin.

The origin of this word is rather less mysterious than the others, since all the other West Germanic languages have related forms, like Dutch maagd.

Everywhere else in England – from Lincoln and Nottingham, through Leicester and Northants, right down to the south coast from Hampshire to Kent – the word was girl.

This is the term for a young woman or female child which has now spread throughout the English-speaking world.

But its origin, too, is doubtful, although there are many theories.

One is that it was borrowed from Low German gör "small child". Others have suggested that it comes from the Old English word gyrela "dress".

But in Norfolk and Suffolk, mawther is what we say.

This word has been associated with our region for centuries.

In a 17th century play, a character says: "Th'art a Norfolk woman, where maids are mothers, and mothers are maids". Some scholars believe that mawther is related to mother, as this quote suggests.

Others think it may be related to maid. Yet others are happy to admit that, as with lass, wench and girl, we just don't know where it comes from.