

Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE 1870

Truly remarkable achievement has supported our carers

They are the invisible army – the thousands of Norfolk's unpaid carers.

The contribution which those carers make to their loved ones is incalculable, but the efforts of carers across the country are valued at a staggering £132bn.

Looking after a family member who needs care can be exhausting, both physically and mentally. And sometimes those carers need help themselves.

That is what prompted the creation, way back in 1998, of the EDP We Care Appeal.

That appeal started with the objective of raising at least £1m to set up a permanent fund to give carers direct financial help.

Our readers, as ever, rose to the challenge. Today the Norfolk Millennium Trust for Carers, which oversees the grants, has a pot of more than £1.14m.

The income from that investment has been used to provide much-needed grants available for the estimated one in seven people in Norfolk who is a full or part-time carer.

That has been for the likes of washing machines, power packs for wheelchairs and short breaks to give carers themselves a respite from their efforts.

And the trust now stands on the brink of a remarkable milestone.

By the end of next month, an amazing £750,000 will have been paid out to more than 2,000 carers and more than 50 groups during the 15 years the trust has existed.

As people live longer and spending on welfare reduces, these are grants which are increasingly important for the county's carers.

You, the EDP readers who helped to kick-start this fund back at the dawn of the 21st century, deserve our thanks, as do those devoted carers who work so tirelessly.

Families need this help

It's easy to take having a roof over your head for granted. But for some people there comes a point when that is suddenly not the case.

The charity Shelter has pointed to research in the past which suggests one in 10 people are just a single pay packet away from becoming homeless.

People can become homeless for many reasons. They could be evicted because of rent arrears caused by money problems; the breakdown of relationships with partners, parents or families; having to leave because of domestic violence or abuse; illegal evictions or harassment by landlords or losing a home through fire or flooding.

That's why Norwich City Council's proposal to create a 20-bed unit for people going through the process to live temporarily should be welcomed.

These people, many of whom are families, are going through quite enough stress without being shipped off to Suffolk to live while their application is handled.

It makes far more sense for them to be able to live in Norwich during that period.

Scores of these people are entitled to be housed and they deserve to be helped.

Tracy is an inspiration

They say it is never too late to try something new.

And if you're after a healthy dose of inspiration, look no further than Tracy Clark. Four years ago, the 46-year-old mother-of-two set herself an ambitious challenge – to swim the English Channel.

Since then, she has completed some of the toughest open-water swims around the globe – and now hopes to become just the seventh person in the world to complete the formidable Ocean's Seven challenge.

READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ An egret in flight at Cley marshes, captured on camera by EDP reader David Thacker. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit www.iwitness24.co.uk

It takes two to make a word – but that W still remains

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I think we can agree that there is something odd about the spelling of the word two. It's the same thing which is odd about sword, and answer – and Norwich. These words have a letter w in the spelling, but the w is not present in the pronunciation. This is because we used to pronounce the w in words like this but it has been lost over the centuries through language change.

In Old English the masculine form of the numeral two was twegen, while the feminine and neuter form was twa – which is the form that our modern word two descends from.

The w is still retained in most of the languages which are closely related to English, such as Scots, where two is 'twa'. In German the word is 'zwei'. In Dutch and Afrikaans it's 'twee'; in Frisian 'twa'; in Swedish 'två'; in Icelandic 'tvö'; and in Faroese 'tvey'. But the Danish word for two, which is 'to', has lost the w just like English. The original tw does actually survive in English, though, in many related words. Twelve was originally 'two-left' – that is, 'two are left if you subtract 10'. Twenty is two tens. Twice, obviously, means two times; and twins refers to two children born together.



■ The word twin is derived from Old English, and is similar to other words meaning "two".

Twain, an archaic word which still survives in phrases such as "never the twain shall meet" and splitting something "in twain", comes from the Old English masculine form twegen.

Twine goes back to an Old English form meaning double thread, where the threads have been twisted – another related word – together. Twill was also originally a cloth woven from such double thread. And the first meaning of twig was fork – a branch which divided into two.

Between and betwixt are derived from Old English forms of the number two preceded by be-, which was a reduced

form of bi, modern by. In Norfolk we also have the forms atween and atwixt, which go back to an Old English form with an 'on-' rather than bi.

We have also kept the w in another set of words, where it appears as u. Ancient Proto-Indo-European dwo meaning two was the source not only of Old English twa but also of Latin duo.

This Latin form appears in some words which we have borrowed from the classical language or from Italian, such as duality and duet.

So English has a dual origin for words related to two.