

# Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1870

## A47 review cannot be allowed to affect £300m project plans

While the government's reassurances over the A47 are welcome, the news that the £300m project is one on a list under review is concerning.

Progress on the key infrastructure project has been nothing short of glacial, and if Norfolk's potential is to be fully realised, it is the sort of work that must be done sooner rather than later.

We have seen how an appropriate road network can open the sluice gates for investment, with the £100m A11 dualling project already making an impact.

Infrastructure blockages have the opposite effect – stymying business and making commuters' daily lives more difficult.

Of course, the A11 project also involved a large dose of patience, with the work only confirmed after a 40-year campaign.

But the results can not be ignored and are surely a lesson to government that if you give this county the tools, it will deliver.

The opportunity here is to connect three of the county's major population centres with a suitable road, providing them with the oxygen to thrive.

That is why we will be keeping the pressure up. Even the faintest whiff of delay or back-tracking has to be questioned, and today's news is no different.

It is encouraging to see Sir Henry Bellingham taking the same stance. We call on his fellow MPs to follow suit.

During a visit last year, the prime minister promised he would "get the diggers out himself" if the project does not begin by 2020.

We would hate to have to hold him to that.

## A victory to truly savour

It was one of the most exciting matches that the Carrow Road faithful have seen in years.

Norwich City's glorious 3-2 win over Newcastle was action-packed and put fans through the wringer.

There was joy when Timm Klose netted in first half stoppage time.

Agony when Aleksandar Mitrovic's looping header brought the visitors level.

Euphoria as Dieumerici Mbokani's thumping hit restored the Canaries' lead, then that sinking feeling of a second equaliser.

It finished on an unbelievable high when Martin Olsson rifled home a winner three minutes into stoppage time, to leave City four points clear of the drop zone.

There were jubilant celebrations, and it was a moment to savour.

But the relegation battle for Premier League survival is far from over.

The hard work starts here.

## List your war memorial

It's good to see that Norfolk's war memorials are being listed, but members of the public are still needed.

Historic England has pledged to protect 2,500 memorials by 2018, but it needs people to put them forward for listing.

If your town or village's war memorial is not in good condition, then grants are available to clean it up.

Hundreds of war memorials have already been listed across the country in the past year to mark the centenary of the First World War.

More than a million Britons lost their lives in the conflict, and it's absolutely right that the war memorials are being protected.

The centenary programme aims to bring people together as a nation to honour the lives and bravery of all those who served.

## READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

# iwitness24



■ Standing proud in a tangle of branches, a heron perches at Strumpshaw Fen. Picture by David Thacker. If you would like to submit a photograph for possible publication in the EDP, visit the website [www.iwitness24.co.uk](http://www.iwitness24.co.uk)

## There is no reason why infinitives cannot be split

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Trudgill



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English forms like to sleep, to run, to read are called infinitives. In the sentence "I want to go", to go is an infinitive. Infinitives can also occur without the to – in "you can go", go is an infinitive.

When we talk about English verbs, we normally use the infinitive, as in "the verb to go is irregular".

Many languages don't have infinitives – modern Greek, for example. But in languages which do have them, they often consist of a single word: the French for 'to go' is aller, the German is gehen, and the Latin is ire. The Scandinavian languages, on the other hand, have two-word infinitives like in English: to go in Norwegian is å gå.

I have written before in these columns about non-existent "rules" of English grammar which pedants have invented, such as the particularly daft "you mustn't end a sentence with a preposition".

Sometime we actually know when and where such "rules" were made up. One of these concerns infinitives: it was invented in 1834. We don't know who the inventor was, but we know that they were, predictably, American. (A majority of Americans are descended from people who weren't native speakers of English, and they have



■ To boldly go... nothing wrong with that, says Peter Trudgill.

always been more worried about "correct" English than we have.)

The rule which this person came up with was: "The particle 'to' which comes before the verb in the infinitive must not be separated from it by the intervention of an adverb or any other word or phrase".

This is where some people have got the idea from that it is wrong to "split" an infinitive, as in "to boldly go where no man has gone before". It is not clear why this anonymous American came to think this about infinitives, but the rule became very popular, not least with schoolteachers facing the problem of finding something to

talk about when teaching children a language they already knew, and with pedants generally. Maybe the fact that infinitives are single words in Latin had something to do with it.

Anyway, please don't worry: the rule is complete nonsense, and we can ignore it (just as the Norwegians do – they have never even heard of it). As our famous poets and writers have demonstrated, there is nothing wrong about saying or writing things like: "attempts to completely and utterly remove split infinitives from the English language are bound to fail".