

# Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1870

## Please stay safe as you enjoy region's wonderful waters

This is a region with water at its heart and around its fringes. The sea, rivers and the Broads are central to our identity and so much of what makes this a beautiful place to live.

When the sun shines, they come into their own, drawing paddlers, swimmers, surfers, sailors, crabbers and many more people to them. Over the last few days, they have really pulled in the crowds. Our waters are truly a delight.

But they are also a danger – as this weekend of tragedy and drama illustrates.

When the surface looks calm and placid, it must always be regarded as a mirage. For so often the stillness disguises lethal riptides, cross-currents, underwater obstructions and other potential perils.

The toll of drownings in East Anglia has been terrible in recent years, and we express our deepest condolences to the family of the man who lost his life on Saturday at Sea Palling.

We do not know the full details of that tragedy. But we do know that other deaths have come from poor decisions and a lowering of the guard while in the water.

Poor decisions like those made by the trio of tombstoners at Lowestoft pier – their behaviour was reckless and stupid.

We have remarkable firefighters, coastguards, lifeguards, lifeboat crews and others who stand ready to rescue people. But they would rather not have to do it. For while saving a life is amazing, so is not needing to.

If we follow the rules and treat the rivers, Broads and the sea with cautious deference, they will be safe places for us to have fun and make memories.

## An athlete in the making

When it comes to running, youngster Henry Kerrison is well ahead of his peers.

The eight-year old has pulled off an enormous achievement by completing his 100th Parkrun.

Even in countries such as Kenya and Ethiopia – where running is close to a religion – that would be considered no mean feat.

Henry deserves much praise for his dedication, determination, and endurance.

And he is a shining example of the many benefits that an event like Parkrun brings to society.

In a world where gadgets and electronics increasingly encourage us to move around less, it has never been more important to maintain an active lifestyle.

Running, or even walking, 5km every Saturday would benefit so many people at the cost of so little time.

And best of all it's completely free and encourages people from all walks of life to take part.

Fortunately for Henry his motivation has not relented and for every target broken another one is set.

That sort of perseverance will get him a long way in life, both on and off the running track.

## Crucial call by Klose

Relegation was a bitter pill. And there has been little of substance to raise the spirits of Norwich City's fans since.

So at a time when transfer news makes for a parsimonious meal, supporters will devour the news that Timm Klose intends to stay at Carrow Road this season.

His injury arguably destroyed City's dreams last season, and this declaration is a huge boost this time around. Klose is class.

He is also a real character, who could organise and galvanise his teammates.

Things could change, of course. But, taken at face value, this Klose call really could be crucial to City's hopes of another rapid return to the top flight.

## READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ A meadow pipit on ragwort in the late evening sun at Great Yarmouth North Denes has a large insect for supper. Picture by Brian Hicks. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit [www.iwitness24.co.uk](http://www.iwitness24.co.uk)

## He right - he knows just what he talking about

Peter  
Trudgill



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The African American comedian Reginald D Hunter is rather popular in this country. Last time he performed in Norwich, the venue was sold out. One of his best remembered jokes comes from a TV appearance – it was a grammar joke.

Hunter's story was that he was in a bar talking to a British woman. She found out he was a comedian and asked him what he knew about Tommy Cooper. "He dead!" Hunter said. The woman answered: "I must correct your grammar – it's 'he died'." "Yes", replied Hunter, "at first he died, now he dead."

There are, unfortunately, people who still think it's OK to go around "correcting" other people's grammar. But Reginald's grammar here is very interesting. Like millions of other Black Americans, Hunter is a speaker of what linguists often call African American Vernacular English (AAVE).

This English variety can be very different from the dialects spoken by most White people in America. There is, sadly, a long history in the USA of this dialect, quite unjustifiably, being looked down upon and discriminated against – just as African Americans have been discriminated against. But Reginald D



■ Reginald D Hunter's way of speaking may sound wrong to some - but it has its own rules and grammar.

Hunter's dialect is a perfectly normal language variety with its own grammatical structures.

One of these structures is the one illustrated by "He dead". In constructions like "She busy" and "He my father", AAVE has no copula – no verb 'to be'. And you can see why – it's totally unnecessary. The meaning is entirely clear without it. Many of the languages of the world have this same, very sensible construction. In Russian, he's dead is "on mertv" (he dead). Turkish has the same construction.

But AAVE also has the ability to make a grammatical distinction with the copula which isn't available in most other English dialects, including Standard English.

There's an important difference of meaning in AAVE between "she busy",

and "she be busy". You have to say "she busy right now", but "usually she be busy".

The point is that forms with 'be' refer to an event which is repeated or occurs habitually: it's often called "habitual be".

It would be wrong in AAVE to say "she be my mother", which would imply she was only your mother from time to time. The correct form is "she my mother".

Another well-known feature of AAVE is that it uses "he go" and "she do".

Norfolk people will agree that this is also very sensible grammar.

■ This Saturday's EDP features an interview with Prof Trudgill ahead of the publication of his new book, **Dialect Matters: Respecting Vernacular Language**, a collection of his EDP columns.