

# Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1870

## It's essential that action is taken over noisy neighbours

One of the wonderful things about living in our region is that, generally speaking, it's a peaceful and tranquil part of the world.

But, alas, that is not the case for everybody living in Norfolk and Suffolk. Far from it, in fact.

Because some people have to live with neighbours – be they individuals or businesses – who can make their lives an absolute misery.

These noisy neighbours, whether through playing thumping music in the early hours or by keeping animals which make a racket, can drive fed-up people to distraction.

In some cases, the neighbours might not realise the impact their actions are having, but in many cases it's sheer selfishness which makes them persist with being so loud.

There have been thousands of complaints to our councils in Norfolk and Suffolk over the past year, because people have reached the end of their tether after being subjected to noise.

Council bosses insist they do take such complaints seriously and there have been cases where abatement notices have seen equipment seized to tackle the problem.

In some cases, people who refuse to quieten down have even found themselves hauled in front of magistrates and quite rightly, because their actions really do have an effect on wellbeing.

People are right to value their peace and quiet, and strong action, where appropriate, can act as a deterrent to encourage others not to make quite so much noise.

## Care in your own home

The pressures faced by the NHS need no introduction. And it is clear that many hospitals are bearing the brunt of an increase in demand for healthcare.

Therefore it is reassuring to learn that – even during difficult times – there is a clear desire locally to shift care away from the traditional hospital ward.

Only through co-operation and integration will the NHS be ready to meet the challenges of the future.

NHS organisations have, for far too long, existed at their own islands, with not enough sharing of resources.

That has been especially true in a big and rural county like Norfolk.

The demographics here in this region may vary greatly from Great Yarmouth to Hunstanton, but that should not discourage partnerships from forming.

In HomeWard, patients are lucky to have their GPs, consultants, and community nurses all working together to decide where they are best suited to be treated.

There are a growing number of examples such as HomeWard popping up across both this region and the country.

And for our NHS's sake, this particular sort of model must be allowed the time to flourish and expand.

## Fireworks tribute

It was a case of 'better late than never' for Cromer's New Year fireworks display.

Postponed because of the windy weather a week ago, the display still attracted thousands of clifftop visitors when it took place yesterday.

The 13-and-a-half minute display included 2,464 fireworks and cost £6,000.

But as well as the noise and fun, the event had a serious side.

It paid a special tribute to the Cromer RNLI crew who saved 33 lives off Cromer a century ago.

The proud lifeboat tradition lives on in Cromer – and long may it continue.

## READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ A seal at Horsey apparently saluting Andy Lambert who took this photograph. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit [www.iwitness24.co.uk](http://www.iwitness24.co.uk)

## You may not have known origin of the word till until now

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Outside into Chapelfield in Norwich there's a sign saying that the Mall is open 'til 7pm. This is an interesting spelling – the normal way of writing 'til is till. So why would it occur to anybody to write it with only one l, and with an apostrophe before the t?

The usual reason for using this kind of apostrophe in written English is to show that something that used to be there isn't there anymore, as with the n't in don't and isn't. In these cases, n't is a reduced form of not – don't derives from do+not. It's a little bit more complicated with won't and shan't, which do not come directly from wo+not and sha+not. The n't part of don't and isn't is a weak form which cannot occur on its own: it isn't possible to say "I don't know whether to go or n't". The 's in it's and the 're in we're are similarly reduced forms which cannot appear on their own.

But 'til is not like that. It can occur on its own, as it does on the sign at the shopping centre. And nothing has been left out. 'Til isn't a reduced form of anything – it's just a misspelling of till. The misspelling is based on a total misapprehension, namely that till is a reduced form of until (which is nowadays



■ The hills of the North – The word 'till' reflects Norse influence.

Picture: JOHN GILES/PA

spelt with one l for no particular reason). In fact, till is not a shortened form of until. The opposite is true – until is an expanded form of till!

Till was originally the Old Norse word corresponding to Old English to. In the modern Scandinavian languages, it's still the ordinary word for to. In Norwegian and Danish it's spelt til, while the Swedes spell it till. In parts of the North of England which were very heavily Scandinavianised through Viking settlement, till is still used in local

dialects to mean 'to' in many of its senses, as in a quarter till eight – some Americans say that too. But in most other forms of English, till just means 'as far as' or 'up to'.

So where did the un- bit in until come from, then? The answer is that it was an Old Norse form which has now disappeared. Un- originally meant 'as far as'. So un-till was simply a stronger, reinforced way of saying till. It would have been the equivalent of modern English "right up to".