

Eastern Daily Press

SERVING THE COMMUNITY
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Older people must be given the care that they deserve

These are extraordinarily difficult times for local councils. The amount of money they get from central government is diminishing, yet the pressure on their services is increasing.

Norfolk County Council is facing the, frankly, frightening prospect of having to make some £111m of cuts and savings over the next three years.

Every committee is being asked to plan to be spending 25pc less than it currently does over the next three years – and that is a scary situation.

This newspaper has already reported on what that might mean for the fire service (the closure of stations and reductions in the number of pumps) and the library service (slashing of stock, reductions in the number of mobile libraries and cuts to opening hours).

And today we reveal fears over what a mammoth £50m cut from the adult social services committee might mean – fewer care packages for vulnerable people.

The county council's thinking is that money can be saved by keeping people in their own homes, rather than in expensive residential care placements.

That does make good sense. Many older people do not want to end up in homes, if that can be avoided. But, the fact is that, for some, a residential home is what they need.

They simply cannot cope for themselves anymore and expecting their loved ones to shoulder that responsibility is not fair.

But older people need and deserve to be treated with compassion – and to still have a choice over what sort of care they get in their advanced years.

The problem is that savings will have to come from somewhere. There are no easy decisions here.

So long, GoGoDragons!

What a marvellous sight they have been in Norwich all summer long, brightening the streets and capturing the hearts and imaginations of residents and visitors alike.

The 84 brightly coloured GoGoDragons! have brought dragon-spotters from far and wide and those who followed the trail have been able to enjoy the many other treats our great city has to offer.

Alongside our fire-breathing friends, the GoGoDragons! sticker book, created by the Eastern Daily Press and Norwich Evening News, has proved a resounding success too. While the colourful beasts may have left the city's streets, they will return in a "last chance to see" event at the Forum, Norwich, between September 27 and 30 before going under the hammer at a charity auction on October 1.

Boxer ready to rumba

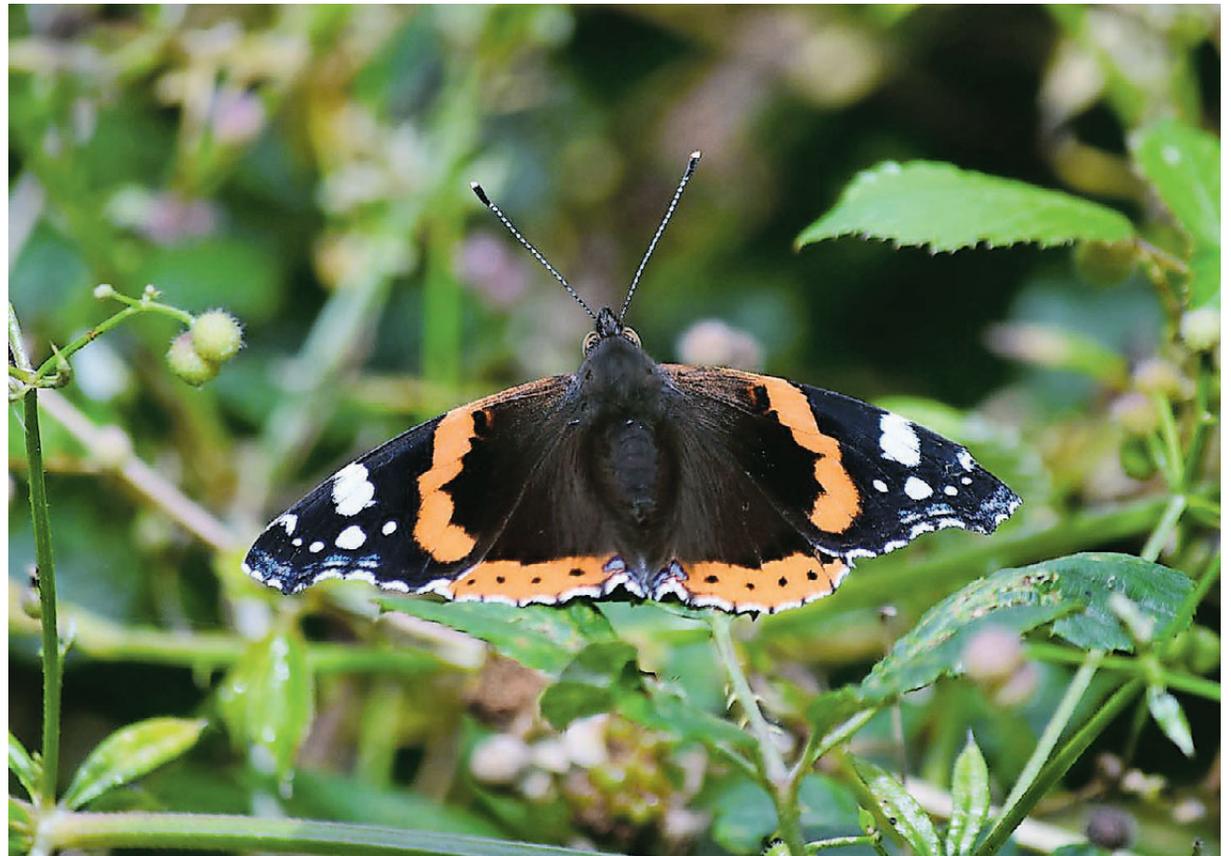
We are hoping for a knockout performance from boxer Anthony Ogogo when he tries his hand at dancing in this year's Strictly Come Dancing.

The middleweight will have to float like a butterfly if he is to keep the Strictly crown in East Anglia and emulate Caroline Flack's sensational performances last time round.

He might be ready to rumble but let's hope Lowestoft's Anthony is ready to rumba.

READER'S PICTURE OF THE DAY

iwitness24



■ A beautiful red admiral in a garden at Blickling. Picture by Susan Cockaday. If you would like to submit a picture for possible publication in the EDP, visit www.iwitness24.co.uk

Yes or no... help us shed light on two little words

Peter
Trudgill



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I have written before about how English used to have two different ways of saying yes. "Yea" was the normal word; but when you were disagreeing with something, you would say "yes". For instance, if someone said "It isn't raining" when it actually was, you would reply "Yes!", meaning "Yes it is raining – you're wrong".

We also used to have two different words for no: nay and no. "Nay" was the negative form most usually employed. "Are you ready? – Nay [I'm not]". "No" was only used if you were agreeing with something negative someone else had said: "You're not ready? – No [you're right]".

Modern English is much more boring, since we have lost those interesting distinctions, with yea and nay being archaic forms most of us have heard of but whose special meanings are no longer known.

But here in East Anglia we do have an extra layer of sophistication in connection with yes and no. Dr Stephen Howe, a linguist who grew up in Soham, has been doing some interesting work on two different yes and no words which seem to be peculiarly East Anglian,



■ So, is it raining? Jearse!

Picture: GETTY IMAGES/

though we are not sure about their geographical spread. In fact, we would welcome information from EDP readers about this, and about whether these words are still being used by younger people today. You can, if you like, let Stephen know at www.stephenhowe.info/survey/

The first word is the negative form "dow!". It rhymes with now and is said with very emphatic intonation. This was certainly very common when I was growing up in Norwich. It meant something like "No, of course not!". You might hear: "Ha' you done your hoomwork yet? – Dow!" (= No, don't be daft, of course I haven't!)

The other word is a version of yes.

Stephen spells it jearse, and it rhymes with fierce. It, too, is used emphatically. "Are you gawn out Saturday night? – Jearse! (= Yes, of course, obviously, naturally, you needn't have bothered to ask)".

We can't be sure about the origins of these terms, but Stephen suggests that jearse could well be derived from "dear, yes" in the sense of "oh dear me yes". Similarly, dow might be derived from "dear, no". But the truth is we are not sure.

Anyway, what we'd like to know is whether these forms were used all over Norfolk, eastern Cambridgeshire, northern Suffolk and maybe beyond. And are they still in use?

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What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Rom 8:31

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