

# Norfolk News Network

## Arsonist keeps firefighters busy

*Megan Fowler*

The Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service is being stretched to the limits of its new budget after a string of fires over the past week, which Police believe are linked. Several disused buildings throughout Norwich have had to be extinguished, as well as a warehouse on Carrow Road and a branch of Potts and Daughter's Funeral Home. Police are declining to comment on potential suspects at this time, thought are appealing to the public for witnesses and information on any of these fires, which are all believed to have been started between 8am and 6pm.

Given the timing and brazen nature of these fires it is this reporter's opinion that Norwich may be facing a serial firebug, and we can only hope that the suspect is apprehended quickly.

## Vigilantism out of control in the City

*Anthony Reed*

Despite repeatedly urging the public to not engage in vigilante activities, the movement which has come to be known as the "Have-a-go-heroes" continues to gain steam.

Ordinary people are intervening in a wide variety of ongoing crimes, including theft, assault, vandalism, robbery, and disorderly behaviour.

Questioning the "heroes" after the incidents reveals that all of them report experiencing hallucinations during the incidents. In these hallucinations they see the perpetrators of the crimes they stops as dragons, trolls, and other such monsters, whereas they are knights or similar, feeling compelled to fight the 'forces of evil'.

The unity of the hallucinations raises questions as to whether there is an outside influence at work here. Suggestions of gas or similar airborne substances have been made, but so far since no common place where the "heroes" have all visited has been identified, no testing has been conducted.

**October Edition**

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## Deadliest explosion in county history

*Megan Fowler*

Earlier in the month, a huge explosion echoed across rural Norfolk as a farm was completely engulfed and destroyed. All buildings and a large part of the surrounding land was affected, burnt beyond recognition by the time the fire was put out.

Since the time of the explosion, the remains of eight different individuals have been recovered from the wreckage, but not formal identification has been made, and it is unknown if these will be forthcoming given the condition of the remains.

An investigation into the explosion is ongoing by the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service, but currently it is suspected to be an accident, although the exact cause remains unknown.

## Scientists “Mystified” by Thriving Flora

Anthony Reed

Scientists at Norfolk Plant Laboratories are baffled by the “very rapid growth” of particular species of thorn bushes, particularly Fireberry and Blackthorns. Professor Cathie Martin has stated that this is especially unusual given the recent heatwave. This unprecedented growth spurt has been a great relief for several species of bird in the county as the bushes provide them with ideal protected nesting sites and an easy food source.

There are those less pleased by the news, including local Anti-GMO group, ‘Genewatch’, who have released a statement accusing GMO producers of failing to ensure that their crops are sterile, allegedly leading to a cross pollination between them and the thriving thorn bushes. When approached for a comment a spokesperson for Genewatch said “I think that serious questions have to be asked about the long-term potential impacts of genetic modification, to human, animal and environmental welfare. If it’s found that an organisation working with GMO crops has allowed them to cross pollinate with out local, indigenous species then they should face severe consequences for the incalculable risk they’ve exposed us to.”

## Horoscope - Libra



The leaves have finally turned, and chilly autumn night are beginning to creep up on us, but Libra’s don’t need to worry - a new romance lies just around the corner, someone to share warmth with. Although do exercise caution - if it runs too hot, a new passion can leave you burnt!

## Sudoku

	3			1	4	9		
4		6			9			2
			3			7		4
		4		2			3	9
				5				
6	8			4		5		
7		5			6			
9			7			2		3
		3	4	9			5	

## Homelessness at Lowest Level in 5 Years

Megan Fowler

A Council spokesperson has hailed the success of a recent program to help the homeless in the city. Recent surveys commissioned by Norfolk Social Services report that the numbers of homeless people on the streets have decreased by almost 25% over the first six months of this year.

Tory Councillor Tarquin Lucius issues a statement saying “these statistics prove that Austerity is working.”

Lucius’ statement continues, “A new residential building project, Generation Park, was completed in record time; a clear example of the economy picking up due to the success of Conservative financial policy.” Something wasn’t adding up, so this reporter took to the streets to investigate.

“My friends and I always check in with each other but I haven’t seen any of them for a week” reported one rough sleeper who wishes to remain anonymous. “I heard there’s some new housing being built but they wouldn’t’ve left without letting me know.”

Armed with a set of names to look for, and not finding them in any records of Generation Park residents, I took a drive out to Generation Park myself to get to the bottom of this.

And what did I find? A beautiful set of chalet houses! The new residents are settling in well and the staff were very helpful, going as far as to show my the teething issues they’re having with their IT systems, which explains the discrepancy in the records. As one of them put it, “We’ve got nothing to hide, and everyone in the project believes in total transparency and accountability for any mistakes that have been made.”

## The Beast of the East?

Anthony Reed

Police are warning local residents and tourists to avoid visiting the Bure Marshes National Nature Reserve after the remains of a missing hiking enthusiast were discovered early yesterday morning. Valerie Pope was reported missing four days after failing to return from an overnight trek into the renowned Norfolk landmark.

A statement released by Norfolk Police has revealed that they are treating Ms Pope’s death as a wild animal attack and are appealing for anyone with information to contact them, in the interest of public health and safety. They are also treating the devastating loss at the ‘Happy Paws Animal Sanctuary’ as a related incident.