

Tell us your news

Call our reporters on 07501 481521

For reviews of restaurants, pubs and bars in the Norwich area, don't miss the **Weekend** section of your Norwich Evening News every Saturday.



Cinema chain under new ownership

Art-house cinema chain Picturehouse, which runs Norwich's Cinema City, is under new ownership after being bought by multiplex chain Cineworld in a £47.3m deal.

Picturehouse's chain includes 21 cinemas with a total of 80 screens, including the Abbeygate Picturehouse in Bury St Edmunds, and the Arts Picturehouse in Cambridge.

Cineworld, which is also buying Picturehouse's theatrical distribution arm, Picturehouse Entertainment, said the deal will allow it to tap into "new audiences in a high value and growing part of the market".

Picturehouse, which has 750 staff, will continue to be run as a separate business within Cineworld and its existing management team will remain in place, Cineworld added.

Roy Townsend, chairman of the Cinema City trustees, said: "I would like to make it clear the ownership of Cinema City itself has not changed.

"It's part of a trust, we have contracted out the day-to-day management of the cinema to Picturehouse.

"It's the ownership of Picturehouse which has changed but this will in no way affect the running of our beloved Cinema City, which remains in control of the trust and the building in the ownership of the city council."

Lyn Goleby, co-founder and managing director of Picturehouse, said it will stay true to its roots after the takeover and the "unique character" of its cinemas will remain.



Anger: Demonstrators in Norwich protesting, earlier this year, over the closure of other Remploy factories – before Norwich was directly threatened.

PHOTO: DENISE BRADLEY

Remploy closure a 'broken promise'

Moves to close Norwich's Remploy factory have been condemned as shameful, with the government accused of breaking its promises towards its workers.

The packaging factory in Heigham Street employs 26 disabled people in its workforce of 39. But it became the latest victim of a government shake-up, putting at risk 875 jobs across the country, including 682 disabled workers.

However Esther McVey, minister for disabled people, said that talks would now begin to see if a commercial buyer could be found for any of the sites set to close.

And Norwich North MP Chloe Smith said she was optimistic that

Shaun Lowthorpe
shaun.lowthorpe@archant.co.uk

the Remploy operation and its workers could be taken on by another city business, which she said wanted to remain anonymous at this point.

But Labour Euro MP Richard Howitt said the announcement represented a very bad broken promise from the government.

And Jess Asato, Labour's parliamentary candidate for Norwich North, said the decision was "shameful".

"This factory was providing vital work for people with

disabilities who are now to be thrown on the scrapheap," she said.

Ms Smith said she expected a greater number of disabled people to be better supported by the government's new plans.

"I have worked hard to talk to a local business about a possible expression of interest, so I am pleased there has been a clear signal over the beginning of the commercial process," she said.

"I am encouraging that business, and any others, to put in an offer that can really help with vibrant industry and employment in Norwich."

PM praises troops

The prime minister paid personal tribute to the Light Dragons – and the people of Dereham – on the day an estimated 6,000 grateful Norfolk residents welcomed the regiment home from Afghanistan.

In a letter to commanding officer Lt Col Sam Plant, David Cameron reiterated his condolences to the family and loved ones of Sgt Lee Davidson.

He said: "I hope that both you and the regiment, as a whole, can look back on this deployment with a great deal of pride. Your efforts in denying explosives and associated equipment to the insurgency has been a significant factor in assisting with the ongoing transition to the Afghan National Security Forces."

In a separate letter to Breckland Council, Mr Cameron praised the residents of the district for supporting the Swanton Morley-based troops.

£100k firm 'theft'

A man allegedly stole more than £100,000 worth of equipment from his employers over five years.

Paul Coulthred, 59, of Heyford Road, Hellesdon, appeared at Norwich Magistrates' Court on Wednesday morning.

He faces a charge of theft by stealing photographic equipment worth £103,737 belonging to Warehouse Express between November 2007 and September 2012.

No plea was entered and the case was adjourned to January.

Blaze in town centre

More than 60 firefighters were last night tackling a major blaze in an area of Dereham due to undergo a £1m revamp.

Eleven crews from across Norfolk were called about 10pm to Pact animal charity in Norwich Street.

The blaze was initially thought to have spread to Mariners fish and chip shop on the Cowper Road car park, but crews managed to contain the flames.

A Norfolk Fire and Rescue spokesman said a roof top was alight.

Courtesy Taxis
READY TO GO FARES
6pm TIL MIDNIGHT 7 DAYS A WEEK

£4.50
(£7 IN A MINI BUS)

TO QUALIFY FOR THIS OFFER SIMPLY TRAVEL ANYWHERE INSIDE THE RING ROAD AND BE

READY TO GO!

*EXCLUDING Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Eve, New Years Day

Norwich 01603 44-66-44

www.courtesytaxis.com

Multi-Therapeutic Approach to Hair Loss Treatment

STOP Hair Loss, Thinning & Balding

Has your confidence suffered due to hair loss and balding?

Providing you are suitable for treatment and your follicles are still active, this exciting new treatment that has already changed the lives of hundreds of thousands of men and women in the U.S. could be the answer.

Low level laser therapy is the only non drug based treatment that is FDA approved and proven to stop hair loss and generate re-growth.

Combines unique, superior hair loss products with the most advanced and state-of-the-art hair loss lasers for maximum results in treating hair loss.

Medically proven, HLCC UK laser therapy is effective, non invasive, safe and completely side effect free, it will stop your hair loss immediately and stimulate your hair to grow.

- Stabilisation of hair loss in men and women
- See significant improvement and hair regrowth
- Increased hair strength, thickness and density
- Painfree, safe, no side effects - STOPS HAIR LOSS

Early intervention is key and gives best results

Book now for Free Consultation and Special New Years Offers!

Estetika STUDIO LTD

Contact us today
01603 280521
www.estetikaclinic.co.uk

NORFOLK PLUMBING
(East Anglia) Ltd

Domestic Installation & Repairs

Emergency calls welcome

Bathrooms & Kitchens

- Basins
- Showers
- Toilets
- Tiling
- Baths

Heating

- Radiators
- Pumps
- Powerflush
- Cylinders

Repairs

- Blocked drains/Jetting
- CCTV Surveys
- Leaks and more...

Alan Cooper
Tele: 01603 734253 / 07950 471139
ac.norfolkplumbing@googlemail.com