

It's right up our street to talk like this

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I was about 18 years old before I realised that there was street in Norwich called Gentleman's Walk.

When you've grown up in a city you don't go around looking at street signs.

And nobody ever called it anything except The Walk.

That's still pretty true. If you come across the name Gentleman's Walk, that's either going to be the EDP on their best linguistic behaviour, or a newcomer to the city who hasn't tuned in to the way we speak yet.

If you want to sound like a Norwich person – and why wouldn't you? – you can forget the Gentleman's bit.

You can also notice that there's something special in Norwich about the names of streets derived from churches and parishes using the word "saint". St Stephen's Street is never called that – it's always called just St Stephens.

The same is true of St Augustine's, St Benedict's, St Andrew's, St George's, St Giles'. The only exceptions I can think of are St Vedast Street, which is generally called Vedast Street, and St Peter's Street, which everybody calls "in front of the City Hall". This rule doesn't apply to Roads – you have to say St Stephen's Road – or Lanes – but remember that we say the "Faith's" in St Faith's Lane so that it rhymes with "bathes".

(This is true, too, of the villages outside



TAKE A WALK: Locals have their own way with names in the city. Gentleman's Walk is just The Walk to them.

Norwich just to the north of the airport.)

And then of course there's Thorpe Station. This is what people who haven't tuned in to us yet refer to as Norwich station, the railway station or, if they're under 40, the train station.

(Until quite recently the only people who said "train station" were four-year-olds and Americans.) The local buses show Rail Station as their destination.

Until the 1980s, we had to say Thorpe Station because there were other railway stations in Norwich. City Station was where Barker Street now is. You can see remains

by the path along the river from the Barn Road-St Crispin's Road roundabout. Victoria Station was where Victoria House is today, by the junction of St Stephens Road and Queens Road – the old railway line is the route of the Lakenham Way footpath. City Station was closed in the 1960s, and Victoria Station in the 1980s. So we don't need the Thorpe name any longer. But it's been in use for more than 130 years. And we really can't think of any particular reason to change it.

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