

HEATHLANDS

NEWS

Issue 6

September 2025

Blofield Heath, Pedham, Hemblington, Little & Great Plumstead

Free



Your community newsletter

Heathlands Social Club

Welcome to Heathlands Social Club! Members benefit from cheaper bar prices, and guests are always welcome to visit. Don't forget that our Social Club membership prices are now reduced until the end of the year: £7.00 family, £4.00 single. Come and join us!

Enjoy Sky Sports throughout the week on our two large TVs - check our Facebook page for listings.

We've had some great evenings recently at the Social Club, helped by some good weather and our new early opening on Wednesdays from 4.30pm.

Although we didn't quite sell everything at our recent Beer Festival, it was still very successful and helped generate some much needed funds for Heathlands. We've also introduced a new keg line on the bar which we will change from time to time. Come and have a look to see what the latest new beer is!

Finally, after a brief summer break, our popular **Bar Quiz** returns on **Thursday 11th September, 7.30pm start**. There's free entry and a maximum team size of six.

I look forward to seeing many of you over the next few weeks.

Paul Grainger – Chair of Heathlands Social Club

Social Club Opening Hours

Check our Facebook page/website for latest updates



Tuesday – doors open 7.30pm

Thursday – doors open 7.30pm

Saturday – doors open 5.30pm

Wednesday – doors open 4.30pm

Friday – doors open 4.30pm

Sunday – doors open 2pm



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Heathlands Community Centre

August is a quiet month, but we hope you're all enjoying the summer sunshine. September sees the start of new hiring for Heathlands; we still have some days left, so please get in touch if you're interested in hiring our main hall regularly or for a one-off event. Call Jill on 07947881969, or email jill.heathlands@yahoo.co.uk.

Heathlands Management Committee Meeting

The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9th September at Heathlands.

Removal of Paper Recycling Bin at Heathlands

The 'Paper Waste Bin' had been in place at Heathlands for about 25 years, but M.W. White Ltd has informed the Parish Council that it is removing recycling bins across Norfolk, because they are no longer economically viable. The Company is experiencing a huge decline in paper use, plus a significant increase in misuse.

Chair Exercise/Yoga


We've had a request for chair exercise/chair yoga sessions at Heathlands. If you know of anyone who can run these classes, please contact Jill on 07947881969.


Bingo

Friday 12th September & 26th September, eyes down at 7.30pm. A really enjoyable evening with cash prizes and a great raffle. New people always welcome.

Jumble Sale – Saturday 25th October, doors open from 2pm

Get the date in your diary and sort your donations! Jumble welcome from noon.

 heathlandscommunitycentre.org.uk
facebook.com/heathlands.socialclub

 Contact Ben Garrod, Heathlands News editor: news@heathlandscommunitycentre.org.uk
Contact Jill Willott for general Heathlands enquiries: jill.heathlands@yahoo.co.uk



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Heathlands Updates

HEATHLANDS IN THE NEWS

Paul Grainger, Chair of Heathlands Social Club was interviewed and subsequently featured on the BBC local news website on 11 August. The article reported that the number of social clubs nationally has dropped from about 4,500 in the 1970s to 1,100 at present.

The smooth running and success of Heathlands Community Centre and the Social Club relies on the hard work of our team of dedicated volunteers and staff as well as you, the local people who support us. Heathlands has been serving our local community for many years and we look forward to continuing doing so.

Following the relocation of Hemblington Pre-School to Hemblington Primary School, Heathlands' main hall is now available to let for activities during the week. If you're interested in booking the hall for your group or event contact Jill Willott on 07947 881969 or jill.heathlands@yahoo.co.uk.

MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT COFFEE MORNING

It's almost that time of year again and the arrangements are being made, so, please make a note in your diary as we will be holding our annual coffee morning to raise much needed funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Please come and join us, enjoy a cuppa and slice of cake and catch up with friends and family in aid of a very worthy cause.

The event this year will be held on **Saturday 20th September, 12 noon until 3pm** at **Heathlands Community Centre, Blofield Heath, NR13 4QH.**

There will be a large raffle, tombola, white elephant and homemade preserves stalls as well as lots of cake and savouries to enjoy.

Any donations very welcome, please contact Jackie on 07928 584113 or 01603 717382. Thank you.

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Village Updates

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HEMBLINGTON

Grateful thanks to all who came along for the 80th Commemoration of Victory over Japan Day talks in August. Local historian Neil Storey gave an illustrated presentation about The War in the Far East and committee member Steve Briggs discussed “HMS Persimmon in the Indian Ocean 1943-1946”. We are most grateful to our speakers and everyone who supported the event.

‘Art in a Country Church’ Saturday 20th & Sunday 21st September

Do join us for this free exhibition by members of the Great Yarmouth Guild of Artists, including paintings from Ian Walker, Jan Lacey, Viv Rainsbury and Jan Heath. Beautiful paintings, glass work and handicrafts will be available to admire and to buy (cash or card). There’s level entry into the church and a wheelchair accessible WC. An ideal opportunity to visit the church and enjoy homemade refreshments.

Exhibition open: Saturday 20th 10.30am – 4pm & Sunday 21st 11am – 4pm.

Make & Mardle

The next session is at All Saints Church, Hemblington on Tuesday 23rd September, **10am to 12 noon**. Coffee, cake, chat and optional craft – everyone will be most welcome. For more information call Catherine on 01603 270360 for details.

01603 715804 (Friends local contact) | hemblingtonchurch.org.uk

All Saints Church, Church Lane, Hemblington near Blofield NR13 4EF




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Village Updates

BLOFIELD CHURCH

Meet Edward Paston at Blofield Church - Sunday 14th September, 2pm till 4pm

As part of Norfolk's Heritage Open Days, discover Blofield's connections with members of the famous Paston family. Meet Edward Paston, learn of his connections with Blofield, hear music of the 16th Century and explore a range of healing plants used in his time. Don't forget to enjoy a cream tea during your visit!

On Monday 15th & Tuesday 16th September, 10.30am – 4.30pm, Paston displays and trails will also be available at Blofield Church.

St Gregory's Orchestra concert at Blofield Church - Sunday 28th September at 3pm

Blofield Church welcomes the return of St Gregory's Orchestra with a concert of music by Mozart, including The Marriage of Figaro Overture, music from The Magic Flute, Symphony no 35, the Haffner plus a dazzling Flute Fantasie by Hue.

Tickets: £10 at the door include afternoon tea.

CHARITABLE FUNDING FOR OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Blofield Fuel Charity - Registered charity number: 234967

Another year has passed and it's time again for the applications for the Blofield Fuel Charity forms to be available.

All the relevant information is on the forms which will be available from 1st September 2025 from Blofield Newsagents and Blofield Post Office.

The payments given out by the Trustees are for the applicants to assist them in their fuel bills.

The Reve Educational Foundation - Registered charity number: 311132

The Trustees invite applications for grants from the above charity. Applicants must be resident in Blofield or Blofield Heath and should either have begun a course of Further Education or be about to begin such a course.

Applications must be in writing and should give a brief outline of the course on which the applicant is, or about to be, engaged. Applications must be received no later than 31st October 2025 to Mrs Rosemary Youngs, Secretary to the Trustees at 7 Wyngates, Blofield, Norwich, NR13 4JG.

Latest from our local groups

GREAT & LITTLE PLUMSTEAD AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

What a beautiful summer we are having! I am sure everyone's gardens are at their peak with flowers, vegetables and fruits all perhaps just wanting a little rain to keep them going though. The gardening year seems to be moving along and before you know it, we'll be planting next year's Spring bulbs. Enjoy the coming seasons for all the pleasure they bring.

Monday 1st September, 7.30pm meeting at Thorpe End Church Hall – Norma with a talk entitled 'Medical Dogs'.

Monday 6th October, 7.30pm meeting at Thorpe End Church Hall – James' subject is 'Bees', an essential addition to our gardens. We will also have our annual Autumn Show on that evening.

Newcomers are welcome to any of our meetings and events.

For more information about our events or becoming a member, please call Annette Cross on 01603 434584 or our secretary Cherry on 01603 721906.

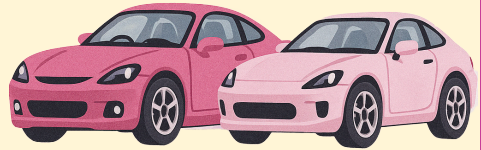
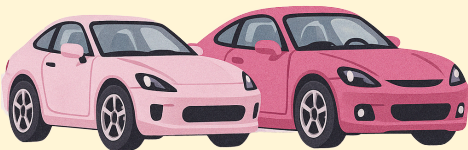
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Latest from our local groups

BLOFIELD & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

7.30pm, Wednesday 10th September “Orchid Growing” a talk given by Colin Thorburn. The members’ competition is “An orchid in flower”.

7.30pm, Wednesday 8th October the legendary Bob Coutts will be discussing “Practical Jobs for the Autumn”. The members’ competition is “A dahlia or chrysanthemum”.

As ever, there’ll be the £1 bring and buy stall, raffle and refreshments. Everyone welcome (£2.50 entry for guests).

Events are held at The Margaret Harker Hall, Yarmouth Road Blofield.

Local contact for enquiries: 01603 715804

Website: blofieldgardeningclub.org.uk



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Village Updates

HEMBLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Hemblington Parish Council holds its regular meetings every two months at Heathlands Community Centre at 7.30pm, normally on the last Monday of the month. Members of the public are welcome to attend. The next meeting is on Monday 29th September. Details of meetings are posted in the noticeboard on the corner of Pedham and Mill Roads and on the parish council website, hemblingtonparish.org.uk.

Among other issues, the Council is currently considering information boards to be placed at several locations and is seeking a suitable site for a new public bench.

Recent activities include the annual Public Right of Way walking of the parish footpaths which took place on Saturday 26th July. The Pedham defibrillator is now fully operational again, having been updated and recommissioned with a replacement battery and new electropads.

The Parish Clerk, Steven Ford may be contacted at 101 Thunder Lane, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich NR7 0JG, telephone 07838 832058 or email at hemblingtonnpc@gmail.com.



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Local History Spotlight

SIR PETER EADE: PHYSICIAN, MAYOR, AND BENEFACTOR OF NORWICH

Peter Eade (1825–1915) of Blofield and Norwich trained in Blofield under his father, also named Peter Eade, to be a doctor. He went on to become an eminent physician, three times Mayor of Norwich, was given the freedom of the city, and was knighted by Queen Victoria.

During his remarkable 90 years he kept diaries, recording many events and changes in both Blofield and Norwich. His writings give a vivid picture of village and city life during the nineteenth century.

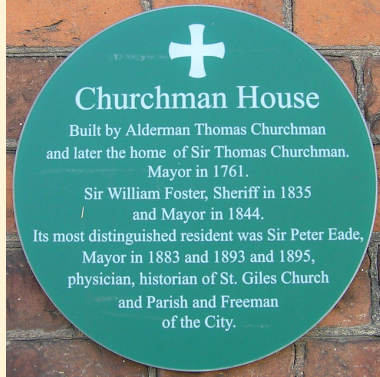


Early Life in Blofield

He grew up near the site where the village school was built in 1878. As a boy he enjoyed cricket, boating, fishing and other outdoor country pursuits. He was first taught alongside his four older sisters before becoming apprenticed to his father. Later he completed his training in medicine in London, where humorous tales are told of his student life.

Peter Eade knew Blofield church well, with its 'tall' enclosed pews reserved for some families and backless benches for others. A clarinet gave the first note for hymns. Stocks stood in the village for miscreants, and at Michaelmas a fair took place on the Street, with canvas-covered stalls and one or two roundabouts.

His life also intersected with dramatic events. On the 10th September 1874, he was a passenger on the train that crashed at Thorpe, where he was able to assist other injured travellers. His medical career and civic service left a lasting mark on Norwich.



As mayor of Norwich, he was instrumental in the building of the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and promoted the creation of open spaces such as Chapel Field Gardens, Eaton Park and Mousehold Heath, recognising the importance of fresh air and recreation for the health of city dwellers.

By persuading the authorities to move the city prison from the castle to new premises on Mousehold, he enabled Norwich Castle to become a major museum – one of the city's most important cultural institutions.

He also provided land for gardening at the new village school in Blofield, seeing the benefit of teaching children practical skills.

Peter Eade worshipped at Blofield Church, where he and his four sisters are buried. The fine east window stands as a memorial to him.



Continue reading about Peter Eade in his new autobiography.

Available for £10 with proceeds going to Blofield Church

Contact David Pilch dbpilch@gmail.com

KEEP BLOFIELD SPECIAL

Our small group of volunteers continues to help keep our villages reasonably free of litter, the September dates for litter-pick dates are:

Monday 1st September, meet at Heathlands, Blofield Heath at 9.30am

Monday 8th September, meet at the Old Court House, Blofield at 9.30am

All are welcome to join us - black bags provided - there's always litter to collect! As usual, many thanks to residents, walkers and dog-walkers who kindly pick up litter.

BLOFIELD DISTRICT CONSERVATION GROUP

BADCOG is an active group aiming to conserve, maintain and improve the diversity of our sites for nature conservation. Fortnightly work parties start at 10.30am and finish no later than 1pm. Anyone can come and join in for as little or as long as they like or just to see what we do.

The next work parties will be on Saturday 13th September – Buckenham Woods and 27th September – Walsham Fen.

For any changes to work party plans please see the website badcog.co.uk
Our AGM will be on 12th September 7.30pm at Strumpshaw Community Hall, Mill Road, Strumpshaw followed by an evening when members bring along items on natural history to show or talk about. BADCOG archives will also be on display. Visitors are welcome and refreshments are available.

Join our 50/50 lottery at Heathlands!



Only £6 a year to enter!

50% goes towards Heathlands, 5% goes towards the Christmas draw and 45% is paid out in the monthly prize draw.

Ask for more details inside the Social Club!

Advertisers: Cost from £15, with revenue going towards the production of this newsletter.

Contributors: Please send your submission by the 12th of each month to:
news@heathlandscommunitycentre.org.uk.
(Subject to the discretion of the editor and available space.)

Distributors: Please contact Ros Brister on 07941 087010 for any queries regarding distribution. We're always looking for people willing to help out with distribution around our villages – so please get in touch!