

HEATHLANDS

NEWS

Issue 8

Blofield Heath, Pedham, Hemblington, Little & Great Plumstead

November 2025

Free



Your community newsletter

Cover: Autumn colour at Heathlands

Heathlands Updates

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!

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

Although the nights are starting to draw in, we are still open early on Wednesdays from 4.30pm, please do come along and enjoy a late afternoon at the club.

We have No Frills playing on Saturday 1st November – a well supported local band who cover classic songs from The Buzzcocks, The Clash, The Jam, Sex Pistols, The Undertones, Green Day, Foo Fighters, The Specials, Stiff Little Fingers and more. Tickets are £5, doors open at 5.30pm with music from 8pm.

Finally, don't forget our ever popular monthly bar quiz. The next one is Thursday 6th November, 7.30pm. Free entry, maximum six per team.

Paul Grainger – Chairman, Heathlands Social Club

Upcoming Meetings

The next Heathlands Social Club meeting is 7pm on the 3rd November and the Heathlands Management Committee meeting is 7.30pm on the 4th November. Please contact before attending.

Bingo

Our first afternoon bingo was a great success! The next afternoon bingo date is Friday 14th November, 2pm till 4pm; plus tea, cake and raffle. Our evening bingo dates are Friday 7th and 21st November, doors open 6.45pm and eyes down at 7.30pm. Come and join us for fun with cash prizes - the bar is also open.

Food Vendors at Heathlands

A reminder that we now have two food vendors at Heathlands! The Nippy Chippy van is on site Fridays, serving from 4:30pm, and Vlad's Pizza is on site Saturdays, serving from 5pm.

Tea and Chat

Tuesday 18th November, 2pm – 4pm. Come and join us for lots of lovely cakes, sausage rolls, scones, raffle and plenty of tea and coffee.

 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

What's on at Heathlands Community Centre

Christmas Fair

Saturday 15th November, 2pm onwards. Don't miss our big Christmas Fair with Luxury Gift Stall, Tombola, Large Christmas Raffle, Cake Stall, Teddy Stall, Children's Games, and prize-every-time on the straw game as well as several visiting craft stalls. The Social Club bar will be open from 2pm.

Textile Bin

For safety reasons, this has been moved from outside the Blofield Heath Post Office to Heathlands. The textile bin is now next door to our Bottle Bin, so don't forget to bring your bottles to us as well as Heathlands receives revenue from this, thank you.

Pilates with Jo Buckley

Pilates classes now available at Heathlands with Jo Buckley!

Tuesdays: 9.25am – 10.25am for improvers *and* 10.30am – 11.30am for beginners

Thursdays: 9.15am – 10.15am for improvers *and* 10.20am – 11.20am for beginners

Classes are during school term time and are booked and paid in advance, for more information email Jo on jopilatesyoga.co.uk or text 07554 780591.

Yoga with Lisa Angel

£10 drop in or £8 when booking a block of six classes. Bring your own mat. Wednesday mornings 10am-11am. *For more information contact Jill from Heathlands on 01603 714164.*

Chair Yoga

Starting on Wednesday November 5th, 11am – 12.30pm. For more information, please call Jill from Heathlands on 01603 714164.

Broadbeat Choir

We're open to all abilities and meet at Heathlands on Wednesday afternoons from 1.30pm, finishing at 3pm which is an ideal time if you need to collect children from school.

If you'd like to give us a try contact Sandra on 07899 676560 or just pop in. You'll get two free sessions then it's £7 when you come along. Wednesday afternoons 1.30 – 3pm.

Fi Fitness

Friday mornings: 9.15am – Legs, bums, tums (a workout to tighten those wobbly bits and to make you feel good); 10.15am – Forever Fit (a low impact, slow workout for those wanting to remain mobile and independent longer). For more information contact fifitnessnorwich@gmail.com.

Our Local Churches

HEMBLINGTON CHURCH

Toy and book stall at Heathlands' Christmas Fair

Are you having a pre-Christmas review of your children's or grandchildren's books and toys? If you have any that they've grown out of and would like to offer them to Hemblington Church's toy and book stall at Heathlands' Christmas Fair, they will be very gratefully received! **Call Jennifer on 01603 716970 or Pat on 07592 755027** for more details – we need your donations before Saturday 15th November!

Remembrance Service

Our Remembrance service at Hemblington Church is on 9th November at 9.30am and will be attended by Jane Cator, one of our Deputy Lieutenants for Norfolk who is also on the PCC of Ranworth Church. She is representing The Lord Lieutenant and ultimately The King, so it will be very special for our little church. Come and join us on this special day, everyone will be welcome. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

Make & Mardle

The next Make & Mardle session is at Gables Farmhouse, Hemblington Hall Road, Hemblington on Tuesday 25th November from 10am to 12noon. The usual format: coffee, cake, chat and optional craft, everyone most welcome. Make & Mardle takes a break in December and meets again in January. **Call Catherine on 01603 270360.**

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING AT HEATHLANDS

The coffee morning which was held at Heathlands on Saturday 20 September raised £1,763 and I would like to thank everyone who came and supported us. Together with what has been raised throughout the year I will be sending the charity a total of £3,700.

As always, I want to say a huge thank you to my team who always work so hard to make the event a success, and to Heathlands for the venue. Also, my thanks and appreciation go to everyone who either gave me a cash donation, donated a raffle prize or gave me tombola items and especially to those people who donated their surplus fruit and vegetable for my preserves. Thank you! **Jackie Kearns**

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Our Local Churches

FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS, HEMBLINGTON

Many thanks to Blofield & District Conservation Group BADCOG and the Bure Valley Conservation Group for all their cutting and raking in the churchyard this year. This is vital work to ensure the wild plants reappear next year and provide inspiration to us, as well as a good habitat for wildlife.

The monthly wildlife surveys have continued this year – many thanks to Linda and David Bryant for undertaking these. David regularly provides information about wildlife seen in the local area and the results of the surveys (as well as lots about the night skies) – do check out his blog: birdsoftheheath.blogspot.com.

If you would like to join the churchyard working parties or wildlife survey team, do please let The Friends' secretary know – see contact details below.

The Friends group has had a successful year, organising events to bring people into the church and raising some funds towards any necessary repairs in the church. We are always looking for further support, both practical and financial, so please consider becoming a Friend. Annual or life membership would also be useful for that “what shall I give them as a gift?” person. Annual membership is just £10, or life membership £100. If local businesses would like to support the group, we would ensure their sponsorship was well advertised.

Friends' Secretary - Tel: 01603 715804, Email: hemblington@gmail.com

Website: hemblingtonchurch.org.uk

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Local Updates

BLOFIELD CHURCH

Christmas Craft Fair at Blofield Church –
10.30am – 2pm, Saturday 22nd November

Free entry to craft stalls galore, gifts, ideas
for Christmas presents, home baking plus fun,
games and challenges for children. Tea, coffee,
cakes and lunches served in the West End Cafe.

Keep up to date on blofieldchurch.org.uk or find
Friends of Blofield Church on Facebook.



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RIBA



Latest From Our Local Groups

BLOFIELD AND DISTRICT CONSERVATION GROUP

BADCOG manages local wildlife habitats including fen meadow, woodland, ponds, churchyards, some designated Local Nature Reserves, all rich in flora and fauna.

Work parties run fortnightly from 10.30am to 1pm. Join in for as long as you like or just come and see. Next sessions: 8th November – Snowdrop Acre; 22nd November – Howe's Meadow; 6th December – Walsham Fen. Updates at badcog.co.uk.

Our evening meeting on Friday 14th November, 7.30pm, features David Bryant's talk Wildlife in a Country Churchyard at Strumpshaw Community Hall, NR13 4FS. Visitors welcome; refreshments provided.

Hire Heathlands for any occasion!

Perfect for Wedding Receptions, Special Occasion Celebrations, Sports, Music or Business Meetings. Call Jill on 07947881969 for details.

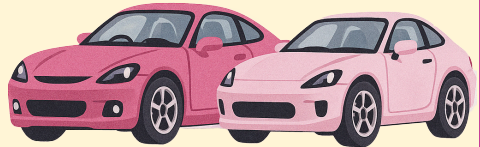
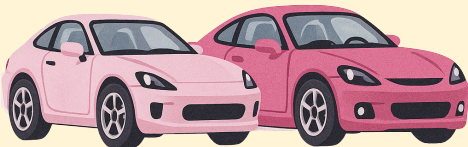
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Latest From Our Local Groups

KEEP BLOFIELD SPECIAL

We are a small group of volunteers who like to keep our villages looking reasonably free of litter, we meet monthly for about an hour's litter-picking.

Litter-picks for November take place on:

Monday 3rd November, meet at Heathlands, Blofield Heath at 9.30am

Monday 10th November, meet at the Old Court House, Blofield at 9.30am

The evenings are now drawing in, however there's always litter that needs collecting! The informal collecting by residents when out walking or dog-walking is much appreciated.

WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION BLOFIELD BRANCH

As featured in the October issue of Heathlands News, "Why do we say that?" is a six week course led by tutor Janet Wilson to be held at Blofield Court House, Yarmouth Road. Janet will appear live "on the big screen" and participants will be able to speak with her.

The course will run on Tuesday mornings starting on 13th January 2026 (10am – 12 noon). Further information and enrolment is available on the WEA website: wea.org. The course reference number is Q00024509 and the cost for the 6 week course is £96 per person.

Local contact for general information - email: blofield.branch@wea.ac.uk or phone 01603 537029.

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Latest From Our Local Groups

GREAT AND LITTLE PLUMSTEAD GARDENING CLUB

Autumn is approaching fast and the clocks go back an hour on Sunday 26th October to confuse our brains for a while. With the evenings drawing in, why not spend time browsing through the gardening catalogues for the coming spring?

Monday 3rd November, 7.30pm meeting at Great Plumstead Village Hall – we welcome Brian with a talk on Wherries.

Monday 1st December, 7pm meeting at Thorpe End Church Hall – our AGM followed by our Christmas social!

To finish our very successful year we are all looking forward to our Annual Christmas Lunch at Filby Bridge Restaurant.

Our Secretary is working hard on the schedule for next year. New members are welcome to join us in 2026 to enjoy being part of this gardening club with its varied programme.

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

BLOFIELD AND DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Join us for our final meeting of the year at 7.30pm on Wednesday 12 November – a talk by local beekeeper Lynda Hunt, “Looking After Bees”. The members’ competition is “A Christmas Meal for the Birds”.

All are welcome at The Margaret Harker Hall, Yarmouth Road, Blofield. Free for members, guests £2.50 with refreshments. £1 Bring and Buy table.

For queries call 01603 715804 or visit blofieldgardeningclub.org.uk.

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Village Updates

HEMBLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL LATEST MEETING

The following key issues were discussed in October's meeting:

Norfolk Community Fund

County Councillor Fran Whymark circulated details of the new Norfolk Community Fund that supports community-led projects that make Norfolk a better place to live.

Grants are available up to £2,500, with fund matching of 50% on applications above £500 or more.

A wide range of organisation can apply including charities, nurseries and community centres. Grants will fund projects that bring people together, celebrate local culture and help to improve life in Norfolk. Suggested projects include:

- A coffee morning for older residents in a village hall
- A youth football team needing kit and equipment
- A community garden with raised beds and tools
- A craft group for people with disabilities
- A pop-up art exhibition showcasing local talent
- If you want to discuss an idea contact Hemblington Parish Council or visit norfolk.gov.uk/communityfund to learn more.

Hemblington Parish Council's Website

A parishioner noted that the Parish Council website needed some updating and to make the site easier to locate parish minutes and key information, of which our clerk is addressing.

Hemblington Information Boards

Updated visuals and a revised more economical method of manufacturing were discussed. A final sample layout and revised costs will be presented for approval at the November meeting.

Speeding on Hemblington Hall Road/Church Lane

Due to the Burlingham A47 highways improvements, it has been observed by parishioners on the increased number of speeding vehicles using Church Lane/Hemblington Hall Road as a cut through from Burlingham. Being a 60 mph zone the council would not be able to implement the SAM Flashing Speed sign (for 30 mph areas only) so the council are pursuing Highways to address the issue.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, 24th November 2025 7.30pm at Heathlands Community Centre, Blofield Heath. To contact Hemblington Parish Council and view full meeting minutes, please visit our website hemblingtonparish.org.uk.

SIR PETER EADE AUTOBIOGRAPHY AVAILABLE

As featured in last month's Heathlands News, a new autobiography of local doctor, mayor and benefactor, Sir Peter Eade is now available for £10 with proceeds going to Blofield Church. A great Christmas present for anyone interested in local history!

Contact David Pilch on dbpilch@gmail.com.

Business card adverts - £15

Half-page adverts - £30

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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 Heathlands' Social Club.

September Winners: P Brooks - £17.75, F Milliken - £10.65, Russell Hill - £3.55



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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 – please get in touch!