

BLOFIELD NEWS

The parish magazine for St. Andrew & St. Peter, Blofield;
All Saints, Hemblington and St. Andrew, North Burlingham

January 2025

50p



WELCOME

Blofield News is the monthly parish magazine for St. Andrew & St. Peter Blofield, All Saints Hemblington and St. Andrew, North Burlingham. It is sold in these churches and in local shops. If you live in one of our parishes and purchase a year's subscription we can probably deliver it to your home free of charge. If you live outside the parishes you can have copies sent to your home either by post or by email. A large print version is available to anyone who is having difficulty reading our standard publication. For more information, please contact the editor, Gill, whose contact details are on the back page. The last date for submissions is the **15th of the previous month.**

MINISTRY TEAM

Rector: Vacant

Priest: Revd. Sue Shillam Tel: 01603 211629

Retired Priest: Revd. Canon Judith Wilson Tel: 01603 211509

Retired Priest: Revd. Canon Pat Atkinson Tel: 07795 670322

St. Andrew & St. Peter, Blofield

Churchwardens: Mrs. Y. Mack Tel: 01603 715213 & Mr. S. Wales Tel: 01603 211931. Website: www.blofieldchurch.org.uk

All Saints, Hemblington

Churchwardens: Mr. S. Mutton Tel: 01603 715701 & Mrs. C. Howe Tel: 01603 270360. Website: www.hemblingtonchurch.org.uk

St. Andrew & St. Peter, North Burlingham

Contact: Rural Dean, Revd. Martin Greenland Tel: 01493 750393. Website: www.northburlinghamchurch.org.uk

ALL THREE CHURCHES ARE OPEN DAILY FROM 9.30AM - DUSK;

Hand sanitiser is provided.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals

22nd November, Brian Francis aged 84, at Blofield Church.

13th December, Dorothy Eleanor Barber aged 99, at Blofield Church.

"Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy."

Psalm 96: 11 - 12 (NRSV)

Front Cover: *Dendrocopos major - the great spotted woodpecker.*

Wander through a woodland in late winter or early spring, and you are likely to hear bursts of rapid, resonant tapping echoing through the trees. This staccato sound is the work of a woodpecker on a mission.

LETTER FROM OUR CHURCH WARDENS

A Happy New Year to all.

It does feel strange to write that greeting in December in preparation for the January edition of the Blofield News but in fact the Church's New Year has already begun, as this is marked by the season of Advent, whereas the calendar New Year, of course, is January. As Yvonne noted in the December edition, this is the season of hope whichever way we look at it.

Hopefully also, by the time you are reading this, our advertisement for a new priest for the benefice will be airing widely and we will be on the road towards selection and interviewing possible candidates. This is not an easy task as there are far more vacancies than candidates which is why we have worked hard to make our parishes as attractive as possible in our profile. We ask you to continue to pray hard for a successful outcome in the not too far distant future.

In January, we enter the season of Epiphany, which, for the Church, refers to a realization that Christ is the Son of God. Western churches generally celebrate the Visit of the Magi as the revelation of the incarnation of the infant Christ, and commemorate the Feast of Epiphany on January 6. This is followed by a variety of accounts which demonstrate the nature of this child, born in a stable, as truly the Son of God. When Jesus is baptised by John the Baptist the symbol of the dove is the symbol of the love of a father for his son.

All four gospels agree that this baptism is the moment that God declares his love for Jesus. Perhaps what is more moving is that this is before Jesus has begun his full ministry and before that pain and suffering he will endure. His future, as he knows well, is such that he will be obedient even to the endurance of the cross.

'You are my son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased'. Luke 2:22.

It is too easy at Christmas time to lose the message in all the clamour of friends and family, presents and meals, games and celebration, to forget that we celebrate the birth of a child who was destined to die the most painful death of crucifixion, to save us all. With the beginning of this New Year, we are reminded that it was he who has given us that gift of hope and we should be truly grateful for it.

Stephen Wales (Blofield Church Warden)

Reflections for January 2025 - Welcome to the New Year.

New Year's prayers can help you look ahead to the new year with hope and trusting God. Jeremiah 29: 11 tells us, "for I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." No matter what your goals are at the beginning of the year - more physical strength, emotional health, or financial stability, the power of prayer can help you achieve your goals as you seek God's plan for your life!

A new creation

Read: *Anyone united with Christ is a new creation; the old self has passed away in its entirety; everything is made new. (2 Corinthians 5: 17)*

Ask yourself: Do you still greet each day as a new beginning, a fresh start? Do you still believe God is able to change your life?

Pray: Lord Jesus Christ, move within me and draw me closer to you, every day and always. Amen.

Keeping faith

Read: *Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary "This child is ordained to be a sign that many will reject; one through whom the inner thoughts of many will be revealed - and even your own soul will be pierced. (Luke 2: 34-35)*

Ask yourself: Does your faith in God's purpose burn as brightly as it once did? Have you lost sight of his ability to change the world?

Pray: Sovereign God, renew my faith, revive my hope, restore my trust so I may serve you this day and always. Amen.

The God who seeks us out

Read: *There will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who changes his heart and life, than over ninety-nine good people who do not need to change. (Luke 15: 7)*

Ask yourself: Do you worry about what the future may hold, or have you learned to rest secure in the knowledge that, whatever may happen, God will be with you in it, nothing finally able to separate you from his love?

Pray: Lord Jesus Christ, when I wander from your side, do not abandon me to my fate but instead, come looking for me, your love refusing to let me go. Amen.

Getting the message

Read: *If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you, and you with me. (Revelation 3:20)*

Ask yourself: Are you open to the guidance of others in relation to what God might be asking of you? Is he calling you to new areas of service at the beginning of this new year.

Pray: Gracious God, speak to me now and help me to listen. Open my ears to all the different ways that your voice may come and teach me to respond in faith. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Happy New Year.

Every blessing

Rev'd Sue

**THREE CHURCHES TOGETHER
BLOFIELD, HEMBLINGTON AND NORTH BURLINGHAM
SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2025**

Date	Blofield Church 11.00am	Hemblington Church 9.30am	North Burlingham
5th January	Morning Worship	Holy Communion	Joint at Hemblington
12th January	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Joint at Hemblington
19th January	Morning Worship	Holy Communion	Joint at Hemblington
26th January	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Joint at Hemblington

There will be NO Morning Prayer at Hemblington Church during December 2024, January 2025 and February 2025.

Home Communion

For the arrangement of home communion, in cases of illness or where a person is unable to leave their home, please contact a member of the ministry team (telephone numbers on page 2).

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES in JANUARY

15th January at Manor House Residential Home
22nd January at Brewster Court.

Collections and Giving to our churches

We are grateful for all the offerings, gifts and donations that we receive each month. These can be given at each service (both Blofield and Hemblington Churches now have secure card readers) or online by using BACS or standing order. Bank details for each church are detailed below:

BLOFIELD PARISH CHURCH	ALL SAINTS CHURCH HEMBLINGTON	ST ANDREWS CHURCH NORTH BURLINGHAM (North Burlingham PCC)
Sort Code: 09 01 55 Account No. 31794180	Sort Code: 30 96 17 Account No. 00040822	Sort Code: 30 99 97 Account No. 30101668

BLOFIELD CHURCH

WEDNESDAY MORNING BENEFICE SERVICE AT BLOFIELD CHURCH

The Wednesday morning services are at 9.30am



8th January - Holy Communion
15th January - Morning Worship
22nd January - Holy Communion
29th January - Morning Worship

The service is followed by coffee and chat
in the West End - All welcome.

OPEN TO GOD

The "One to One" prayer ministry will take place by the high altar after the morning service on the 11th January 2025.

'The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms.'



Maureen and Liz

PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND TO GIVE THANKS MONDAY MORNING 9.00AM – 9.45AM

Blofield church is open every day for people to visit or to be still and pray for the work of the church, our families, our own community and the wider world.

On Monday mornings, we come together, to help carry the burden through prayer and faith, for those in need of healing in our church family and known to us as individuals. All are welcome to join for this quiet time of prayer.

THE CHURCHES OF THE BLOFIELD BENEFICE Caring for our church family

Looking after our church family and the wider community is very important to us. Our churches are open every day for you to visit.

If you or someone you know needs support, would like a phone call, or who has something special to celebrate please let Revd. Sue or the churchwardens know, so that we can make contact. Contact for matters relating to pastoral support, contact Revd. Sue Shillam.

Contact details are on page 2.

NORWICH AND GREAT YARMOUTH FOODBANKS



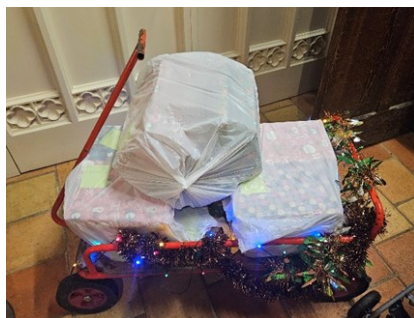
Your donations to Blofield Church for the Foodbank have been remarkable this December.



Thank you to all our regular givers, but also to the quilter's group, WI and local villagers who have contributed so generously this year. This trolley is what is collected each week.

For more information, please contact Yvonne on 07720942955.

For several years Revd Sue Shillam has asked our churches to collect shoe boxes for Yarmouth Foodbank to bring a little joy at Christmas. Once again, we have been delighted and overwhelmed with the response from the people of Blofield Heath, Hemblington, Blofield as well as Blofield Pre-school, The Pink House Nursery School, Hemblington School and Play Church Toddler Group. Thank you.



To everyone who made wonderful boxes for those less fortunate this Christmas.

***May God bless you for your kindness.
Revd. Sue on behalf of the Salvation Army Gorleston.***



PLAY CHURCH

Baby & Toddler Group

**Come and find your happy place at Blofield Church
Church Road, Blofield, NR13 4NA**

Wednesdays from 1 – 3 pm during term time

**Come and join us for an afternoon of fun and friendship
and a chance for babies and toddlers to learn and play in
a safe, welcoming & well resourced setting.**

**The group is run by experienced early years volunteers
and the leaders are DBS checked.**

**Healthy snacks are provided for children with tea and cake
for adults served at the end of the session.**

SPRING TERM

8th January - 12th February

**There is no charge but a donation bowl and a SUMUP machine
are available for contributions to help with running costs.**

**Contact Yvonne on 07720942955 or
yvonnemack60@gmail.com or Barbara on 01603 714519**

Blofield Church

OPEN DOORS 2025

**Everyone is welcome to join us at Blofield Church on the first and third
Thursday every month from 12.00 midday. We provide a homecooked,
two course lunch, lots of chat/conversation, friendship, laughter and a
little bit of crafting.**

In January, we meet on Thursdays, the 2nd and 16th

For further details, telephone Jenny on 01603 712968

"THE BRAINS OF BLOFIELD"

BLOFIELD CHURCH

Presents a

'Quiz and Chilli Night'



at the Margaret Harker Hall - start at 6.30pm
on **Saturday, 25th January 2025**

To register your team, call 01603 211931

Tickets £10 per person to include food

Teams of up to 6

Music in Blofield Church in the autumn of 2024.



Our autumn concert series was very well attended, and both the music and the afternoon teas were much enjoyed and appreciated - from St Gregory's Orchestra with a stunning violin soloist, to John Farmer's piano concert in which some of his family danced in the aisle to a waltz.

Chanter's Jigge then opened our eyes and ears to traditional songs and instruments including an amazing hurdy gurdy. They were followed by the Mundesley Community Choir, bringing us our annual Christmas concert. With the Christmas tree lit, and colourful decorations throughout the church, we sang carols and enjoyed the choir's obvious pleasure in making music together.

Thank you to all who attended, made the music, and created the teas.

The Children's Society. It's that time of year again!

If you have one of my home collection boxes for the Children's Society, this is the time of year when I open the boxes. The contents are sent off to help the work of the society with many children who have problems and needs.

Please bring me your box when it is convenient.

If other people would like to have a box at home to collect loose change, please speak to me.

Many thanks, Barbara Pilch.

ADVENT has been a time of preparation at Blofield Church

The Advent wreath was lovingly prepared and installed, the crib set up with Mary and Joseph awaiting the birth of Jesus, the pew ends and candelabras made ready for the Christmas candles and the tree decorated and twinkling in the corner.

Then Blofield School brought years five and six for the Carol Service which filled the building with angel voices and the telling of the Christmas story in a new and special way.

This was followed by a visit from the reception class, quietly excited, and with a sense of awe in this special building. Years one and two followed the next day with anticipation, and an eagerness to know what we had planned for them. We shared the Christmas story, setting up their own Nativity scene, made decorations for the tree and enjoyed drinks, biscuits and lots and lots of glitter for our decorations!



Wednesday - and the toddler group arrived for their nativity, dressed as angels, sheep, donkeys and shepherds. This time it was the mums, dad, grandparents and aunts who were excited about what was to unfold.

What little stars they were, squabbling over the donkey and who was to pull him along; running up and down, looking for a place to stay and singing 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star' to a hushed audience. And all this time, little baby Jesus lay peacefully in the crib.



Another very special year with the church filled with little children.

Yvonne Mack

HEMBLINGTON CHURCH

Friends of All Saints Church, Hemblington

We help to keep this lovely little Medieval Church and its churchyard in good order for now and the future. Membership is £10 p.a. or £100 for life. See the church website www.hemblingtonchurch.org.uk for further details or contact Sue on 01603 715804.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:

Sunday, 26th January 2025: The Free **Big Churchyard Bird Watch**.

Saturday evening, 15th March 2025: David's Giant Music Quiz is happening again at **Heathlands Community Centre**, *by popular demand*.



The Free Big Churchyard Bird Watch



in association with the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

**ALL SAINTS CHURCH,
CHURCH LANE, HEMBLINGTON, NR13 4EF**

off Hemblington Hall Road, between Blofield Heath and N. Burlingham

**Come along and see how many birds
visit the churchyard**

**Sunday 26th January, 2025
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**Dress up warm and be part of a citizen science program!
Warming refreshments will be available.**

Further details on our website: www.hemblingtonchurch.org.uk





Grand music quiz 2025

at Heathlands Community Centre,
Woodbastwick Road, Blofield Heath

Saturday evening, 15th March 2025

Back by popular request, David will be presenting his music-based quiz, probably the only live music quiz in the area!

Music-related dingbats, pictorial band questions and lots more

Teams of up to six at £5 per person

All proceeds go to Hemblington Church repair fund whilst your support will boost Heathlands' social funds.

Tickets from Linda or Sue:
(01603) 715 933 or 715 804

WEA

Adult Learning
Within Reach

WEA Blofield Branch

Well known Norfolk tutor Mary Fewster is offering a 3 week course entitled "**Country Life 1700 - 1900**" on **Tuesdays, 28th January, 4th and 11th February, 2025** between 10:00am – 12:00 noon. These will be held at Blofield Court House, Yarmouth Road, Blofield.

Full details are on the WEA website: www.wea.org.uk - search under Blofield Branch. Local contact number for queries is (01603) 537029.

"How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong.

Because someday in your life you will have been all these."

George Washington Carver

NOTICE BOARD

Blafelda (Blofield) Probus Club

The club provides an enjoyable social meeting point for men who are retired or about to retire. We meet for lunch on the third Wednesday of every month at THE RAM, 108 The Street, Brundall NR13 5LP at 12 noon for lunch at 12.30pm. If you are new to the area it is a good way to get to know people. Lunch is followed by a talk, often on a subject of particularly local interest. We have vacancies for members so if you are interested contact Alex Mason (alexwmason@yahoo.co.uk/Tel. 01603 716735) or Mike Cole (mikecole@uwclub.net/Tel. 01603 713839).

Blofield Court House Village Screen

There is no film during January. Enquiries to 01603 712306.

Blofield and District Gardening Club

Meetings will resume after a winter break and resume on the 12th March 2025. Local contact for information is 01603 715804;
Club website:www.blofieldgardeningclub.org.uk

Blofield Parish Council

All are welcome to meetings which take place on a **Monday at 7:30pm in Blofield Courthouse Main Hall** unless otherwise notified. The monthly Parish Council Meetings include discussion on any new planning applications. In addition to being published on the council website, the Agendas and the venue of meetings are always posted on the 3 village notice boards located adjacent to Blofield florists Shop, Blofield Library and Blofield Heath Village Shop. For more information on meetings in January, please visit: www.blofield-pc.gov.uk or email: clerk@blofield-pc.gov.uk.

Keep Blofield Special

We are a small group of volunteers who like to keep our villages looking attractive and reasonably free of litter. We meet monthly for about an hour's litter-picking and anyone is welcome to join us. January litter-picks take place on:

Monday, 6th January, meet at Heathlands, Blofield Heath at 9.30am.

Monday, 13th January, meet at the Old Court House, Blofield at 9.30am.

At the start of the new year, we sincerely thank the many residents, walkers and dog-walkers who pick up litter when out and about - it is much appreciated and really helps to Keep Blofield Special!

WEA Blofield Branch

The Blofield branch offers interesting short courses to local people. The Court House is comfortable and well-ventilated, and all will be offered a warm welcome as well as an interesting excursion into a fascinating culture. If you would like to know more about the WEA locally, please contact the local branch: Blofield.branch@wea.ac.uk or 'phone 01603 537029.

NOTICE BOARD

BADCOG - Blofield and District Conservation Group.

Leave your screen, get out in the green.

BADCOG holds fortnightly work parties, and is an active group undertaking site management of local wildlife habitats. We meet on alternate Saturday mornings starting at 10.30am and finishing 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 working parties will be:

4th January - Lingwood village Pond; 18th January - Jary's Meadow; 1st February - Howes Meadow.

Our evening meeting is on **Friday, 10th January** at 7.30pm in Strumpshaw Community Hall, Mill Road, Strumpshaw, there will be a presentation by Kathy Phillips from the Hedgehog Society.

Visitors are welcome.

Further details and any changes to plans will be on the website www.badcog.co.uk.

Blofield Preschool Playgroup, Margaret Harker Hall

A friendly, committee-run playgroup for children aged from 2½ years old. Free 'Early Education' funding for 3 and 4 year olds and full access to the 'Early Years Foundation Stage'. Open Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday during term time. Sessions available 9.10am – 12.10pm, 12.10pm – 3.10pm, or 9.10am – 3.10pm. Call us on 01603 712498 for more information or to arrange a visit. For further details follow us on Twitter: @BlofieldPreSch or visit our Facebook page at:

<http://www.facebook.com/BlofieldPreSchoolPlaygroup>.

If you would like your child to be added to our Waiting List, please email us on blofieldpreschool@outlook.com.

Blofield Tennis Club: Celebrates 100 years

A club with a history, that looks to the future.

Start or get back into the sport at this friendly club. We welcome new members of all standards to join and enjoy regular tennis throughout the year. We offer:

- Four high quality courts, two grass, two hard.
- Daytime and evening social play.
- Group and individual adult and junior coaching with LTA licenced coaches.
- Mixed ability fun tournaments.
- League team play.
- Family, adult and junior membership packages.

Call Diana Gilder 07799 506809 to discuss membership offers, and arrange a **free** taster session, or join via the website.

Website: www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/blofieldtennisclub

Email: blofieldtennisclub@btinternet.com.

Margaret Harker Hall, Yarmouth Road, Blofield, NR13 4LE.

NOTICE BOARD

Brundall Local History Group

Our meetings with talks are on Saturday afternoons at 2.30pm in Brundall Memorial Hall, Links Avenue, Brundall, NR13 5LL. Admission is free to members (a subscription of £15 per annum) and £3 to visitors who are very welcome. For further details visit our website:

www.brundallvillagehistory.org.uk. The next meeting is on **4th January 2025**, with a talk by Rob Knee on 'The Pastons and the Hundred of Blofield: Research from the Pastron Footprint Project'.

Forget Me Not Café

This meets each Tuesday from 2pm to 4pm in the **St Laurence Centre at Brundall Church** for a time of chat and activities over a cup of tea and cake. Everybody is welcome, especially those on the dementia pathway and their carers. Any enquiries to Peta Cunnane, email: petac@btinternet.com.

Brundall & Blofield Good Neighbour Scheme

If you need practical support with small light jobs in or around your home, local lifts to appointments, shopping, prescription collection, or maybe just a chat - give us a call and we will do our best to help. Please call us on **Freephone 08006889677** to speak to a Duty Officer or leave a message.

Thinking about becoming a volunteer? It's local, rewarding and flexible, and will fit around your life. We have vacancies in the Blofield area now. Please contact one of our Duty Officers for more information on Freephone 08006889677 or leave a message.

Heathlands

Members benefit from cheaper bar prices. New Memberships are always welcome, and forms are available in the Bar. £10.00 for a family including children under 17; Single membership £5.00. Non-Members are welcome to visit. We have SKY TV in the club. We also have rolling TV adverts for companies to advertise. If you are interested, please call in and talk to us or ring 01603 714164. Please see Heathlands Facebook Page for up to date news at www.facebook.com/heathlands.socialclub/ and website. After Christmas we re-open on the **2nd January 2025** at 7.30pm.

The Monday Club (Heathlands Day Centre, Blofield Heath)

Our club meets every two weeks. Our catchment area is Blofield, Blofield Heath, Hemblington, Pedham, Little Plumstead and Brundall. We welcome lonely, isolated, elderly and disabled people. Coffee, hot lunch and afternoon refreshments are available as well as activities, entertainment and outings, and most of all companionship. If you or anyone you know would benefit from joining us please ring Sarah Russen on 01603 714800 for a friendly chat. We are always short of voluntary drivers, if you would be happy to help on a regular or occasional basis, please ring Sarah. Also, we are looking for able people to help put chairs and tables away at the end of each meeting. This only takes half an hour. Please ring Sarah on 714800 or Barbara on 712374 if you can help.

NOTICE BOARD

Hemblington Parish Council

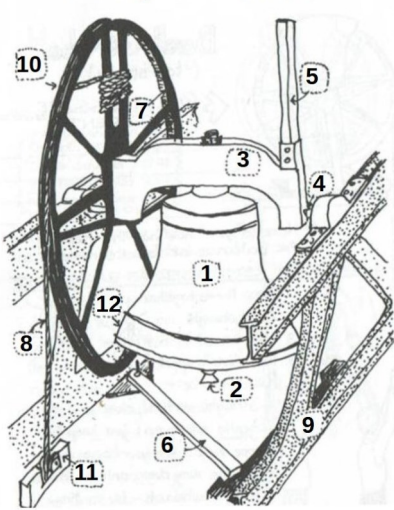
Meetings take place every two months, normally on the last Monday of the month. They start at 7.30pm and held at the Heathlands Community Centre, Woodbastwick Road, Blofield Heath, NR13 4PH. Information is available on our noticeboards and our website: <http://hemblingtonparish.org.uk>.

Hemblington Pre-School

Hemblington Pre-School operates from Heathlands. A maximum of 26 children may attend at any one time. It is open during term times on Tuesday: 9am - 12noon and Wednesday to Friday: 9am - 3pm. All children share access to a secure enclosed outdoor play area. Ofsted Rated - Good. If you require further information (particularly during these uncertain times) then please call 01603 712616 (office hours) or contact: Sasha on 07716869506 and visit our website: www.hemblingtonpreschool.com. There is availability for new children to start at preschool immediately.

Monday Munch at St. Lawrence's, South Walsham

On the first Monday of each month, the churches of Fishley, South Walsham & Upton organize a get-together in St. Lawrence's Church between 12.30 and 2.30pm. We provide light lunches, tea, coffee and cakes, and lots of chat! The next meeting is on the **6th January**. There is no charge, but donations are always welcome. From time to time, as funds allow, we donate to various charities and often have raffles in aid of specific causes, for example, Macmillan, Breast Cancer and Great Yarmouth foodbank. A warm welcome is extended to people in the Benefice, we would love to see you. Just come along any month.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Bellringers' Corner</i></p> 	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SOLUTION TO:</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Can you number the parts of a church bell?” PUZZLE</p> <p>1.Bell; 2.Clapper; 3.Headstock; 4.Gudgeon; 5.Stay; 6.Slider; 7.Wheel; 8.Rope; 9.Frame; 10.Garter Hole; 11.Pulley Box; 12.Sound Bow.</p>
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BRUNDALL LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

Saturday, 4th January 2025 at 2.30pm

Brundall Memorial Hall

THE PASTONS AND THE HUNDRED OF BLOFIELD: RECENT RESEARCH FROM THE PASTON FOOTPRINTS PROJECT

An illustrated talk by Rob Knee.

(Members are free; Non-members £3)

The award-winning Paston Footprints Project, a major Lottery Funded heritage initiative. It looked to highlight the contribution and significance of Norfolk's Paston family.

The area of Blofield played a key role in the rise of the Pastons, beginning with the family's struggles in the lawless and violent years of the 15th century.

In the 16th century, the Blofield estate was given by Henry VIII to the courtier Sir Thomas Paston. This was to be followed in the 17th century and beyond by the remarkable legacy of Thomas's son Edward Paston.

Paston Footprints is now focussed on exploring and developing accessible opportunities for linking the Paston legacy to health and well-being.

Make & Mardle

Make & Mardle takes a break in December.

The dates of the next session is:

Thursday, 23rd January 2025 at Gables Farmhouse,
Hemblington Hall Road.

From 10am to 12noon.

Usual format - coffee, cake chat & optional craft.

Everyone will be most welcome.

HEATHLANDS

BINGO will be back on **3rd January 2025**

HEATHLANDS SOCIAL CLUB

After Christmas, we are open on the 2nd January at 7.30pm.

Opening hours:

Tuesday - Thursday: Doors open 7:30pm.

Friday: Doors open 4:30pm.

Saturday: Doors open 5:30pm.

Sunday: Doors open 2pm.

WORD

In one gentle act
of Divine Love -
He came as "Word"

The eternal Christ
penetrating every aspect
of human endeavour -
drawing to the surface
His likeness
waiting its fulfilment in hope
restoring in mankind
the wounded image
of His likeness.
We wait his fulfilment in
hope.

The eternal Christ
penetrates
every aspect of
human endeavour.

Moving through the
created order as
"Divine Word" -
He renews it.

Weaving through
the drama of history -
He heals it.

Word spoke -
and creation
burst into life -
Light radiated the universe -
sun and stars
sprang into existence.

Now -
Christ
the "Light Word" -
bursting into risen life
brings into light
the nature of God -
and reveals the "Why?"
Of our existence.

Forces of the dark
are blinded
and dispersed.

He comes
and we celebrate
His coming
in songs of praise.

Revd. Canon Paul Oliver

St Mary's Church
South Walsham
NR13 6DQ

Christmas Tree Festival

Church open every day
10am – 4pm
from
Sunday 8th December
Until
Sunday 5th January 2025

For further details please contact
Sue Hitchcock on Tel : 01603 270212
Email: suehitchcock6@gmail.com

William Crotch (1775-1847)

William Crotch (1775-1847) was 'a child prodigy without parallel in the history of music'. Sadly, he was to suffer psychological damage later in his life as a result of his parents' determination to show him off. He was described as being 'of a retiring disposition', with a tendency to extreme conservatism in his old age, slating, for example, S S Wesley's anthem *The Wilderness* when it was submitted for the Gresham Prize in 1833. Crotch wrote: "The introduction of novelty, variety, contrast, expression, originality, etc, is the very cause of the decay so long apparent in our church music."

At the age of eighteen months, Crotch was able to pick out tunes on a small house organ; by the age of two he had learned to play 'God save the King'. At the age of three, his mother took him on a series of tours in order to exploit his gifts, playing to the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace in 1779. By then he could play in any key and name any notes in a chord without being able to see the keyboard. His mother embarked upon a tour of the British Isles with the boy entertaining audiences by performing on organ, piano and violin. Many commentators, including Barrington and Burney, heard him and wrote of his unusual skills. It is a pity that his early gifts for composition were not to bear lasting fruit, for, despite success in his own lifetime, his music has not stood the test of time. This may have been a result of the fact that he chose not to publish his best-known work—the oratorio *Palestine*. Instead, he charged 200 guineas for the loan of the parts and for his presence as conductor—a successful way of propagating one's music, as long as one is alive.

By the age of fifteen, Crotch was organist of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, graduating with the degrees of BMus in 1794 and DMus in 1799. He became known as a teacher, lecturing at Oxford (becoming professor there) and at the Royal Institution and, in collaboration with Samuel Wesley and Benjamin Jacob, was a champion of Bach's music at a time when it was little known. Crotch gathered together a large number of examples of music from earlier periods to illustrate his lectures. This collection was published in three volumes between 1808 and 1811 under the title *Specimens of various Styles of Music*. This was one of the first analytical collections of music and it was to prove very influential. Another later publication, this time of Tallis's Hymns, had a decisive influence on the Tractarians, particularly Thomas Helmore. Crotch was appointed the first Principal of the Royal Academy of Music when it opened in 1822, a post he held for ten years.

He retained the position of professor at Oxford until his death in 1847.

SUDOKU FOR THIS MONTH

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

The solution will be in next month's
(February) Blofield News.
Good luck!

SOLUTION TO DECEMBER SUDOKU

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

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JANUARY Diary

01 Wednesday to 05 Sunday	Christmas Tree Festival	St Mary's Church, South Walsham
02 Thursday	Open Doors	Blofield Church
03 Friday	BINGO	Heathlands
04 Saturday	Brundall Local History Group	Brundall Memorial Hall
04 Saturday	BADCOG	Lingwood village Pond
06 Monday	Monday Munch	St. Lawrence's, South Walsham
06 Monday	Keep Blofield Special	Heathlands
10 Friday	BADCOG Evening Meeting	Strumpshaw Community Hall
13 Monday	Keep Blofield Special	Blofield Court House
16 Thursday	Open Doors	Blofield Church
18 Saturday	BADCOG	Jary's Meadow
23 Thursday	Make and Mardle	Gables Farmhouse Hemblington Hall Road
26 Sunday	The Free Big Churchyard Bird Watch	Hemblington Churchyard

Happy New Year

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