

BLOFIELD NEWS

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

January 2026

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

Priest-in-Charge: Revd. Andrew Tapsell, Tel: 07401287873;

Email: revandrewtapsell@gmail.com

Associate Priest: Revd. Cheryl Ramballi, Tel: 07413979503;

Email: Rev.CherylR@outlook.com

Priest: Revd. Sue Shillam, Tel: 01603 211629

Email: sue.shillam@btinternet.com

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. Mutten Tel: 01603 715701 & Mrs. C. Howe Tel: 01603 270360. Website: www.hemblingtonchurch.org.uk

St. Andrew & St. Peter, North Burlingham

Contact: Revd. Andrew Tapsell, Tel: 07401287873

Website: www.northburlinghamchurch.org.uk

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

Hand sanitiser is provided.

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 (details above).

JANUARY MINISTER'S LETTER

Have you made a New Year's resolution for 2026? New Year's resolutions are all about self-reflection, looking back upon what has been, and looking forward to the potential of the future. Whether you have made a resolution for this year or not, self-reflection is something we all do. For me, 2025 has been a year that brought significant change to my life as I moved house and took up my new post as Priest-in-Charge of the Blofield and Broadside group of parishes. 2026 will be my first full year in this role, and I am looking forward to discovering together the direction in which God will lead us as a community.



Whatever this year might hold for you, looking back upon the past and then looking ahead to the future tends to foster thoughts about our hopes and fears, and feelings of excitement or trepidation. Perhaps, there are things that you know will take place this coming year, or things you think may happen, which bring about these feelings for you. It is worth pausing to recognise how the past and future make us feel and to ask ourselves what our approach might be to the months ahead so that we can make the most of the time we have.

There is, however, a danger in doing too much self-reflection by glancing at what is behind us and peering to what lies ahead of us, namely that we can easily forget to live according to what is in front of us. Living in the here and now is to be present to oneself, to other people, and to God. Without grounding ourselves in the moment, it is incredibly difficult to listen to the voices of guidance which matter most: the voice of one's heart, the voices of one's family and friends, and the voice of God. So, as we begin our journey into 2026, leaving behind the old and entering the new, I invite you to join me in resolving to be *more* present, *in* the present, and in being more open to the directions in which God might be calling us, knowing that God is continuously making all things new.

Revd. Andrew Tapsell



Reflections for January 2026 - 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 don't 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

Revd Sue

THREE CHURCHES TOGETHER
BLOFIELD, HEMBLINGTON AND NORTH BURLINGHAM
SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2026

Date	Blofield Church 11.00am	Hemblington Church 9.30am	North Burlingham
4th January	Morning Worship	Holy Communion	Joint at Hemblington
11th January	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Joint at Hemblington
18th January	Morning Worship	Holy Communion	Joint at Hemblington
25th January	Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Joint at Hemblington

There will be no Thursday morning services at Hemblington Church until March. There will be a service at Rev. Sue Shillam's house in January and February, still at 9am. Please contact her if you need her address.

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 Burlingham House at 2pm

21st January - at Manor House at 11am

28th January - at Brewster Court at 11am

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
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



7th January - Morning Worship

14th January - Holy Communion

21st January - Morning Worship

28th January - Holy Communion

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

OPEN TO GOD

We are grateful that as we grow to depend on God more in a relationship of love, so we will experience His healing presence in our lives as a gift. That is what lies behind our listening prayer-time; please know that everyone is welcome. Come as often as you feel the need.

The future dates are Sunday, 11th January and 8th February at the High Altar, after the morning service.

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.

FOODBANK

We are extremely grateful to the people of Blofield, Blofield Heath, individuals and groups like WI and the Courthouse Quilters, as well as our church folk who have contributed so generously to the Foodbank during 2025.

We hope this continues during 2026, ensuring families going through difficult times have enough food to feed themselves and their families.



For more information, please contact Yvonne on 07720942955.



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.

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

THE SPRING TERM
7TH JANUARY - 11TH FEBRUARY 2026

Donation in cash or via SUMUP machine are always welcome to
help with heating costs and keep the building warm

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

Music in Blofield Church during 2025



Our concert series has been very well attended, and both the music and the afternoon teas were much enjoyed and appreciated.

A new venture was a supper concert with the 'Yare Folk', getting us up and dancing to their music. Then, we had the wonderful singing of the choir 'Cantores Subitis' with the added delight of hearing Ben's superb organ playing. The 'Shantymen' from Lowestoft were very popular, and later that month, 'St Gregory's Orchestra' played to another large audience - with the addition of a stunning flute solo.

To put us in a seasonal mood, the 'Mundesley Community Choir', led by Zaira, brought 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 throughout the year, made the music, and created the teas.

Barbara Pilch

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY



**Blofield Church presents a
Valentine's Quiz with Chilli Evening
on Saturday, 14th February 2026,
in the Margaret Harker Hall, starting at 7pm.**



£10 a person (payable on the night by cash or card).

Please contact 01603 211931 to book in a team of up to 6 people.
(*Chilli alternatives are available*)

Blofield Church

OPEN DOORS 2025

Everyone's welcome for a little bit of chat/conversation, friendship,
laughter and activities

We meet on

The first and third Thursday at 12.00

Two course lunch is provided

There will NOT be an Open Doors event on Thursday, 1st January.

**We will meet again on the 15th January for a
New Year 2026 Special Lunch.**

For further information contact Jenny on 01603 712968 or
Sarah on 07584638854

The Children's Society

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.

Cleaning
Team



Cleaning of the church

We welcome anyone who is able to give us just 30 minutes of their time to come and help clean Blofield Church on the first Monday of the month.

This month, it will be the 5th January from 10.00am.

HEMBLINGTON CHURCH

Friends of All Saints Church, Hemblington

The committee hopes that you all had a restful and joyful Christmastide, and the new year sees you fit and healthy.

Once the winter is nearing its end, the Friends will help to organise a churchyard working party, so please keep a look out for the details. Although we will not be holding a formal birdwatch at the church during the RSPB's Garden birdwatch weekend in January, we will continue to organise a one-hour wildlife survey each month. Please let the secretary know if you are interested in joining in with this.

Please also think about becoming a Friend of the church. The group helps to keep the building watertight and in good condition, plus supports the work in keeping the churchyard as a wildlife haven. Whether you visit the churchyard to remember family or friends, enjoy the peacefulness of the church and churchyard, or are fascinated by the wall painting and other Pre-Reformation architecture, we would welcome your support. Please contact the secretary by email: hemblington@gmail.com or phone: (01603) 715804. Membership is just £10 per year and would mean a lot to the whole team.

With all good wishes for 2026 from the Friends committee.

CAROL SERVICE

All Saints Church at Hemblington was overjoyed to welcome many people to their Candlelit Carol Service on Sunday afternoon, 14th December. The pews overflowed with folk keen to share in this joyful service, a mix of traditional bible readings, poetry and a very wry look at how the Christmas story might be regarded by the media today. Music accompanied the singing of much-loved carols, plus arrangements suited to the new church organ and the Music Group. The £208 collection was donated to the Children's Society.

Refreshments were offered after the service, and Revd Sue Shillam thanked all who had arranged and supported this outpouring of love and faith in the community.



Thank you

Another year to say thank you for all those who made Christmas boxes for those who have so little this Christmas. We give thanks for all who show compassion in action, helping the poor with generosity, dignity, and love.

Revd. Sue

Hemblington Make & Mardle Gatherings

In the New Year we will meet again on
Tuesday, 27th January & then on Thursday, 26th February.
At **Gables Farmhouse, Hemblington Hall Road, Hemblington**
from 10am to 12noon.

Usual format - coffee, cake, chat & optional craft,
you will be most welcome.

For more information, call Catherine on 01603 270 360

WEA Blofield Branch

Branch volunteers are pleased to confirm that a slightly different course format has been agreed for a six-week course starting in January 2026. “**Why do we say that?**” is the intriguing title of the course to be led by Janet Wilson. It will be held at Blofield Court House but, instead of the tutor being there in person, she will appear ‘on the big screen’ and we will still be able to speak with her.

The course format is called ‘Hybrid’ by the WEA and it allows a range of courses to be offered to rural branches where there are few tutors available in their area. Do, please, come along and try this course. Your branch volunteers will be present to ensure all goes as smoothly as possible, and we’ll all have a chat over coffee as usual.

Local contact for queries:

blofield.branch@wea.ac.uk or telephone 01603 537029.

‘But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of every human being.’

Job 12:7-10

"Why do we say that?"

wea.org.uk

WEA Blofield is offering this 6 week course at Blofield Court House, 28 Yarmouth Road, Blofield NR13 4JU with tutor Janet Wilson.

This course is an exploration into idioms, accents and expressions of English. It is perfect for anyone who is interested in the history and use of the language. You will learn about some of the established and newer accents of British English, explore everyday and literary idioms, and consider the form and use of some very interesting historical and contemporary slangs and secret languages.

The course will be held on Tuesday mornings – 13th, 20th and 27th January, and 3rd 10th and 17th February, 2026.

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Course fee is £96.

If you receive certain benefits you may be entitled to a free course.

To enrol online: go to www.wea.org.uk/



or scan this QR code to access the homepage

and quote Course reference Q00024509

or 'phone 0300 303 3464 quoting the Course reference Q00024509

**Please contact the Blofield branch with any queries:
blofield.branch@wea.ac.uk or telephone 01603 537029**

Supported by



The WEA is a charity registered in England and Wales (no. 1112775) and in Scotland (no. SC039239)

Humanities

WEA
Adult Learning
Within Reach

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

Matinee 2.30pm (Tea, cakes, ice-creams); Evening 7.30pm (Bar, soft drinks, ice-creams). Tickets: £5 from S & S Mitchell Newsagents, The Street, Blofield. Enquiries email: info@blofieldcourthouse.org.uk. There are no films showing during January.

Blofield and District Gardening Club

The Club is hibernating now. Our next meeting will be Wednesday evening, **11th March, 2026**. All events are at the Margaret Harker Hall, Yarmouth Road, Blofield. Local contact for information: Tel: 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 next meeting is on the **12th January**. 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, 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 reasonably free of litter. We meet monthly for about an hour's litter-picking. Litter-picks for January take place on:

Monday, 5th January, meet at Heathlands, Blofield Heath at 9.30am.

Monday, 12th January, meet at the Old Court House, Blofield at 9.30am.

Also, many thanks to quite a number of residents who pick litter informally during the month - it is much appreciated!

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.

BADCOG is a group of keen volunteers undertaking wildlife conservation management at 14 sites in and around the Blofield area. Wildlife habitats range from fen meadow, woodland (old and new), ponds, churchyard conservation areas and a number of other sites, some of which are designated Local Nature Reserves. BADCOG holds fortnightly work parties on 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: **3rd January 2026 - Lingwood Pond; 17th January - Jary's Meadow; 31st January - Howe's Meadow; 14th February - Walsham Fen.** Further details and any changes to plans will be on the website: www.badcog.co.uk.

Our evening meeting will be on Friday, **9th January at 7.30pm** in Strumpshaw Community Hall, Mill Road, Strumpshaw. Harry Mach from the Broads Authority will give a presentation about the authority's work.

Visitors are welcome and refreshments are available.

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: Norfolk LTA Club of the Year

A club with a 100 years' 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:

- Five high quality courts, three 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 Colin & Dawn Stocker 07483 211926 to discuss membership offers, and arrange a **free** taster session, or join via the website.

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

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. The next meeting is on the **3rd January 2026**. For further details visit our website: www.brundallvillagehistory.org.uk.

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. £7.00 for a family including children under 17, Single membership £4.00 until the end of the year. 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.

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 Pre-school, Hemblington Primary School

Spaces Now Available at Hemblington Preschool.

A warm, caring, and fun start to your child's learning journey. Looking for a nurturing and affordable place for your little one to grow, play, and learn? Hemblington Preschool is a charity-run pre-school offering a safe, supportive environment for children aged 2 to 4 years.

- * Experienced, caring staff.
- * Play-based learning and outdoor fun.
- * Affordable fees and funding options.
- * Inspiring curiosity.

Located in Blofield Heath - Hemblington Primary School. Limited spaces for 3 years until September 2026 and immediate spaces available for 2 years from now, or join our waiting list for September 2026.

Contact us: hemblingtonadmissions@gmail.com.

New Melody Memories Cafe

Come and sing for pleasure in a relaxed setting, have a cuppa and meet new friends. All welcome to this dementia friendly cafe. It will be from 2.30pm - 4.00pm at the **Blofield Courthouse** on the last Thursday of the month. Entry is free and donations kindly received. For more information, please email Suzanne on zanniewilliams@gmail.com or call 01603 716268. The cafe is supported by Norfolk charity Playing for Cake.

Blofield Heath W.I.

We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Heathlands Community Centre at 2.00pm. The next meeting is on the **13th January**.

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. The next meeting will be on **26th January 2026**. Information is available on our noticeboards and our website: <http://hemblingtonparish.org.uk>.

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 **5th 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.

HEATHLANDS

HEATHLANDS MANAGEMENT MEETING IS 6th JANUARY AT 7.30PM.

Forthcoming Events:

JUMBLE SALE is on Saturday, 17th January 2026. Jumble is welcome from 12.00noon and doors open at 2.00pm.

TEA & CHAT: Come and join us on 20th January from 2.00pm. There will be lovely cakes, sausage rolls, etc, and tea and coffee. Together with a raffle and plenty of chat too.

BINGO DATES:

EVENING BINGO dates for January are: 2nd, 16th and 30th. Eyes down 7.30pm.

AFTERNOON BINGO:

The first one in 2026 is 23rd January from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

QUIZ in the Social Club - Come and join us on Thursday, 15th January.

Each Tuesday in the Social Club we have a **Friendly crib evening**.

7.30pm start, come along. It is not competitive just enjoyment of the game.

Each Wednesday (changed from Thursday) - **Short Mat Bowls**, just a friendly evening playing bowls, 7.45pm start.

Brundall Local History Group

Our next meeting is on the **3rd January** with an illustrated talk by Mary Fewster on '*Norwich's Hidden Industrial Past*' at 2.30pm in Brundall Memorial Hall, Links Avenue, Brundall, NR13 5LL.

Until the 1980s Norwich was officially classed as an industrial city. Its long history as a textile centre modified from the 18th century to include an increasing range of manufactures, from brewing to brushes, from shoes to iron-founding, and much more. This talk draws attention to the concentration of industrial premises in the city centre, the surviving buildings and the surprising details.

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.

You're Always There for Me

When the world comes crashing in
And chaos rules my mind,
I turn my heart to you, Lord,
And pure sweet peace I find.

You lift me out of trouble
You comfort me in pain;
You nourish, heal and cleanse me,
Like cool, refreshing rain.

In times of joy and bliss,
When things are going right,
You lift me even higher,
And fill me with delight.

You listen to my prayers;
You hear my every plea;
I'm safe because I know
You're always there for me.

By Joanna Fuchs

Some Light Humour!

The child who heard the story of the Prodigal Son for the first time: 'In the midst of the celebrations for the Prodigal Son' said the teacher, 'there was one for whom the feast brought no happiness, only bitterness. Can you tell me who this was?' 'The fatted calf', suggested one little lad.

The child describing what a halo is:

'They have this circle of light over their heads and they always try to walk carefully so that they stay right underneath it. It lights up.'

A youngster, when asked why there are no longer burnt offerings to God, suggested 'Air pollution'.

The family was on the way home from church. 'What did you learn at Sunday school today, Freddy?' asked his mother.

'Some silly song about Jesus wanting me to be a sunbeam'.

'What is silly about that?' asked his mother.

'Because I want to be a bus driver'.

Selected by Revd. James A Simpson

St Mary's Church
South Walsham
NR13 6DQ

Christmas Tree Festival

Church open for viewing

Every day 10am – 4pm

from

Sunday 7th December

Until

Sunday 4th January 2026

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

Theatre Royal, Norwich

On the 31st January 1758, the Norwich Company of comedians moved from their original location at the White Swan Playhouse to the New Theatre near Chapelfield and adjacent to the current Theatre Royal, with their opening play being *“The Way of the World”* by William Congreve. It cost £600, with the money being raised through subscriptions from local businessmen and lawyers.

Ten years later, an Act of Parliament for licensing the Theatre of Norwich received the Royal Assent, allowing it to be called Theatre Royal for the first time. Then, the Norwich Company of Comedians began to call themselves His Majesty's Servants. Due to this new-found prestige, Thomas Ivory valued the theatre at £6000 and divided ownership into thirty shares, keeping two for himself and offering the other twenty-eight for sale.

The theatre provided a platform for contemporary playwrights to showcase their latest works and along side Congreve, Goldsmith and Sheridan, provided much of the material. However, classics also featured, especially when political events renewed their popularity. During the Seven Years' war, Shakespeare's *“Henry V”* was subtitled “The Victory of English over the French”.



Stephen Fry

Stephen Fry is a famous, lifelong supporter and ambassador for Norwich City Football Club (NCFC), having served on the club's board from 2010 to 2016, where he used his public profile of a popular comedian, actor, presenter and activist, to raise the club's profile and revenue, especially promoting initiatives like mental health awareness. He stepped down from the board, in January 2016, to focus on being Norwich City Ambassador, remaining a key figure in promoting the club, often seen at Carrow Road and involved in campaigns like mental well-being. Being a long-time Canary fan, Fry notes that his love of the club was present before his love of sport in general.

Although Stephen Fry was not born in Norwich, he is perhaps its most well-known and best loved resident. His parents moved to Norfolk when he was young and he was a student for some time at Paston School, North Walsham. He also attended Norfolk College of Art, and City College in Norwich, from where he successfully obtained a scholarship to Queens' College, Cambridge.

Stephen Fry is patron of the Norwich Playhouse Theatre, and a puppet personalised by him was auctioned off by Norwich Puppet Theatre for his 30th birthday. Often vocal about his love for the city and Norfolk as a whole, Stephen Fry is one of Norwich's greatest advocates.

SUDOKU FOR THIS MONTH

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

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

Good luck!

SOLUTION TO DECEMBER 2025 SUDOKU

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

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JANUARY DIARY



01 January to 04 January 2026	Christmas Tree Festival	St Mary's Church, South Walsham
02 Friday	BINGO	Heathlands
03 Saturday	Brundall Local History Group	Brundall Memorial Hall
03 Saturday	BADCOT	Lingwood Pond
05 Monday	Keep Blofield Special	Heathlands
05 Monday	Church Cleaning	Blofield Church
05 Monday	Monday Munch	St Lawrence's, South Walsham
06 Tuesday	Heathlands Management Meeting	Heathlands
09 Friday	BADCOT Evening Meeting	Strumpshaw Community Hall
12 Monday	Keep Blofield Special	Blofield Court House
12 Monday	Blofield PC Meeting	Blofield Court House
13 Tuesday	Blofield Heath WI Meeting	Heathlands
15 Thursday	Open Doors (New Year Lunch)	Blofield Church
15 Thursday	Residential Service	Burlingham House
15 Thursday	Quiz	Heathlands
16 Friday	BINGO	Heathlands
17 Saturday	BADCOT	Jary's Meadow
17 Saturday	Jumble Sale	Heathlands
20 Tuesday	Tea and Chat	Heathlands
21 Wednesday	Residential Service	Manor House
23 Friday	Afternoon BINGO	Heathlands
26 Monday	Hemblington PC	Heathlands
27 Tuesday	Make & Mardle Gathering	Gable Farm, Hemblington
28 Wednesday	Residential Service	Brewster Court
30 Friday	BINGO	Heathlands
31 Saturday	BADCOT	Howe's Meadow

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