

FROM THE EDITOR

Another year is drawing to a close with the usual festive celebrations. This year has gone by so quickly – it seems that it was just a few days ago that we had our “2 days of summer!” It has been another good year for Focal Point, due in no small part to our team of volunteer deliverers, our advertisers and you, the readers. My thanks to you all. This is the final edition of Focal Point for 2017, the next one being February 2018. Granville Hornsby

HEATHLANDS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and New Year. Thank you for your support over 2017

Heathlands Management Committee Meeting at Heathlands Tuesday December 5th.

Two great recent functions, Tina Turner evening and our Christmas Fair, both a great success. Thank you to everybody that came and helped at the Fair or donated items for us to sell.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

HEATHLANDS CHILDRENS' PARTY – Saturday December 16th 2.00 – 4.00pm

Tickets are £3.00 each and available from Jill on 714164 or Jo at Playgroup. This is always a popular event, so get your tickets early. Your children will be entertained, light tea and hopefully Father Christmas will be along to see you all.

BOLLYWOOD DANCERS Saturday 10th February

Come and enjoy these lovely dancers putting on a spectacular show. You also get the chance to join in and it's all fun.

They came to the Summer Fair, but unfortunately the rain came as well!

They put on an impromptu show in the hall and encouraged us to join in.

Tickets for this event, from Social Club or Jill on 01603 714164.

BRUNDALL AND BLOFIELD GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME.

Do you need help with small household jobs, with shopping or library visits, perhaps a lift to a local appointment, or maybe just a chat over a cup of tea. Trained, local volunteers are waiting to help you with all of these tasks and much more. For more information call free: 0800 688 9677

GREAT AND LITTLE PLUMSTEAD AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The next meeting on Monday 5th December will be at St David's Church Hall, Thorpe End at 7.00pm prompt as this will be the AGM which will be followed by refreshments, a raffle and entertainment by “Bob and Connie”. Please note there is no meeting for January and the meeting on February 5th 2018 will be at Great Plumstead Village Hall at 7.30pm, the speaker will be Howard Norton on “Delphiniums”. Visitors are always welcome to our meetings.

WINTER WALKING GROUP OCTOBER-MARCH.

Meet outside Blofield Church every Thursday at 2.00pm and on Tuesdays 1.30pm at: Salhouse Church (1st week), Hemblington Church (2nd week), North Burlingham Church (3rd week) and Acle Recreation Ground car park (4th week).

Walks last about 2 hours (4-5 miles). All welcome. Geoff 01603 713986

BLOFIELD HEATH W.I.

23 members and one of our local W.I. advisers met in November for our A.G.M. Jean is our president and we are pleased to have 2 new members on the committee. Following refreshments we enjoyed a game of musical bingo. Our December meeting is on Tuesday 12th December at 2.00pm at Heathlands. This is our Christmas meeting and is for members only. Our first meeting in the new year will be on Tuesday 9th January at 2.00pm at Heathlands. Brenda Dawson will be talking about "Mugs and Travelling" Brenda went on several holidays and was given a mug each time which bring back memories of those times. Visitors are very welcome.

“RESTART A HEART”, the British Heart Foundation cardiac arrest and general first aid training was offered to local residents by the co-ordinator of the Brundall Area Community First Responders, Christine Wheeler, in October. Sixty people attended the two sessions, which were organised by the Blofield Surgery Patient Participation Group. The cost of hiring the Blofield Courthouse was funded by staff at Blofield Surgery through various fundraising events. Whilst the training was free to attend, participants generously donated £178, which was split between the British Heart Foundation and the Brundall Area Community First Responders. Similar training is available, or if anyone would like to learn more about becoming a Community First Responder, please contact Christine Wheeler on (01603) 713583 or brundallteam@gmail.com

RIENDS OF ALL SAINTS CHURCH, HEMBLINGTON – MUSIC EVENT.

We hope that Friends will come to the Roofstock! fundraiser on Saturday, 2nd December at Heathlands. Organised by local musicians to raise funds to help towards the cost of repairs needed at the church. Tickets, a steal at £6 including nibbles. Licensed bar available. Not only a knock-out night with all the old classics, but a good opportunity to support church repairs – buying a ticket is literally practical support! Tickets from Heathlands or contact Sue on 01603 715804. If you are not able to come along, perhaps you could support us with a raffle prize or a donation? You could also buy membership of the Friends for yourself, or as a Christmas gift: £10 p.a./£100 for life. Now that is a present worth receiving! With all good wishes for the festive season, Sue. Contact: 01603 715804 or hemblington@gmail.com

A QUIZ FOR WINTER EVENINGS.

A light hearted quiz for you, your family and friends to enjoy. Why not enclose one with a Christmas card? Quiz £1 ~ prize £15. Proceeds to Blofield Church. Available at Blofield Church and from the side porch at The White House, The Street, Blofield.

BLOFIELD CHURCH - Sillars Orchestra - "Christmas in Blofield". Don't miss a concert by Sillars Orchestra with guest soloists. 3.00pm on Friday 10th December in Blofield Church. Christmas music with some audience participation. Tickets £7 at the door include refreshments.

CHRISTINGLES.

Making the Christingles for our Christmas Eve service. We need your help transforming oranges into Christingles. Do come along to Blofield Church on Friday December 22nd at 2.00pm. There will be oranges, sweets and fruits, ribbon and candles to assemble and many hands will make light and sociable work of it.

FAMILY CAROL SINGING at The Kings Head, Blofield

Come and join us at the pub for festive carol singing on Thursday 7th December at 7.00pm. All welcome.

'CHURCH LITE' Friday 15TH December at 7.30pm.

An informal time of modern worship in Blofield Church's West End. Light refreshments during the evening.

PLAY CHURCH INVITES YOU TO OUR CHRISTMAS NATIVITY.

On Wednesday 13th December At 2.00pm. The children and parents will be taking part in a Nativity Play on the last day of this term. All welcome to come and watch – refreshments provided.

SERVICES FOR THE BENEFICE CHURCHES OF BLOFIELD, HEMBLINGTON & N. BURLINGHAM

SUNDAY SERVICES

- 8.00am St Andrew and St Peter, Blofield.
9.30am All Saints (Benefice Service at Blofield on 10th December), Hemblington.
9.30am St Andrew's (3rd December only), North Burlingham.
11.00am St Andrew and St Peter, (Benefice Service), Blofield.
Venerable Archdeacon, Steven Betts will be preaching.
7.30pm 'Church Lite' An informal time of modern worship, Blofield.
Tuesdays 8.30am Benefice Morning Prayer, Blofield.
Wednesdays 9.30am Benefice Midweek worship (No service 27/12), Blofield.
Thursdays 9.00am Benefice Morning Prayer, Hemblington.
Thursdays 'Come to the stillness' Prayer time at 4.15pm, Blofield.
Saturday 9.00am Morning Prayer (16th December), North Burlingham.

All additional services and events are available from the websites and Christmas Celebration leaflet:

www.blofieldchurch.org.uk www.hemblingtonchurch.org.uk www.achurchnearyou.com/north-burlingham

ADVENT CELEBRATION IN BLOFIELD

Posada is a Spanish word that means 'inn' and is also the title for a Mexican Advent Celebration where Mary and Joseph travel from house to house to proclaim the imminent arrival of Jesus. This year Mary and Joseph will be travelling around the village again visiting shops, schools and nurseries as they make their journey from the Advent Service at Blofield Church on the 3rd December, returning for the Christingle service at 4.00pm on the 24th December. Please look out for them displayed in windows or on the Friends of Blofield Church Facebook page as we follow their travels looking for a place to stay.

WEST END CAFÉ – EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 10.15am – 11.30am

Come inside for a warm welcome at Blofield Church after the midweek service. A chance to catch up and meet new friends, whether you've lived here for a long time or are new to the village. Tea, coffee and cakes are on offer and we are dog friendly.

COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND SEEKS NEW MEMBERS!

Are you learning to play a wind or brass instrument, or have you played one in the past and would like to start playing again? We are a friendly and informal concert band playing a wide repertoire of music to suit all tastes. Players ideally need to be Grade 4 or above.

Rehearsals take place at 7.30pm - 9.30pm on Wednesday nights at the British Sugar Social Club in Cantley. For further information please contact Roger or Nikki on 01493 701525 broadlandband@gmail.com www.broadlandband.org

INTERESTED IN PLAYING CRIBBAGE?? Would like to play but not sure how?? Contact Alan Oakes on 07818 466473 for more information Will be held in Heathlands Social Club if there is enough interest, dates to be advised later.

THE BRAINS OF BLOFIELD.

Blofield Church presents a "QUIZ and CHILLI Night", 6.30 pm at the Margaret Harker Hall on Saturday January 27th. To register your team call 01603 716703 or 01603 211931. Tickets £9 per person. Teams of up to 6.

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 December and January take place on:

Monday 4th December, meet at Heathlands, Blofield Heath at 9.30am

Monday 11th December, meet at the Old Court House, Blofield at 9.30am

Monday 8th January, meet at Heathlands, Blofield Heath at 9.30am

Monday 15th January, meet at the Old Court House, Blofield at 9.30am

At the close of another year, thanks to all who pick up litter whilst out and about. We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

THE CINNAMON TRUST - is a national charity for elderly and terminally ill people and their pets. If your pet needs exercise they will co-ordinate a local approved volunteer to help you. If you need to go into hospital they can organise for your pet to stay with a volunteer until you come home. Please register your pets or become a much valued volunteer (like me) by calling 01736 757900, emailing admin@cinnamon.org.uk or their website www.cinnamon.org.uk. This is a way to help the elderly and terminally ill people in our area keep their much loved pets. Julie Rackham. Blofield.

AGE UK NORFOLK - Looking for respite care at Christmas?

If you're a full-time carer, or spend a lot of time caring for someone, it's important to make time for yourself, too – both for the sake of your own health and wellbeing and to give you the energy to carry on caring.

That's where respite care can help, particularly at times like Christmas. Spending time in a caring and warm environment, with dedicated helpers on hand can be the answer and a way to give a carer that break. Age UK Norfolk can meet such demands with its 20 bed respite unit at the Grays Fair Court (GFC) centre in Norwich. Each comfortable apartment has en-suite facilities and its own 32 inch television.

The path to respite care can be taken in two ways. First, through the social services system via Norfolk County Council, care packages taken this way will be funded if the patient meets the necessary criteria. or there is a self-funding option.

To find out more about respite care at Christmas, or any other time, contact Age UK Norfolk's Grays Fair Court on 01603 594747; or Norfolk County Council on 0344 800 8020

BROADLANDS ROTARY CLUB NEWSLETTER.

RAGAS: Rotarian Action Group Against Slavery. Rotary clubs from over 65 countries are involved in RAGAS. Our member, Pat Hinkins, is an active co-ordinator involved in work against the slavery and trafficking of children.

We have supported children in Kinder Ward, Nottingham, which treats children with kidney disease and for transplants.

The Falconer Trust is a new project. Goods are collected to send to a children's home in Zambia established by Lilia Falconer, a nurse from Manchester.

BADCOG ~ BLOFIELD AND DISTRICT CONSERVATION GROUP.

Work parties on Saturday mornings are between 10.30 and 1.00pm.

9th December - Walsham Fen.

30th December - Railway Wood.

13th January - Lingwood Pond.

27th January - Howes Meadow.

Our Annual Winter Walk on Saturday 2nd December will be around footpaths in the Coltishall area. More details from Ernest on 01603 712913.

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REPORT FROM YOUR COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICER.

Hello to all readers of Focal Point, the crimes listed below were committed/reported during October.

BLOFIELD, four recorded crimes

1. Burglary from a dwelling on 11th October, on Blofield Corner Road, a property was entered and items removed.
2. Attempted burglary on 20th October in Shilito Road, an attempt made to enter a garage.
3. A domestic incident occurred on 29th October.
4. Theft of motor vehicle on 30th October from Heath Way .

LITTLE PLUMSTEAD, three recorded crimes.

1. A domestic incident occurred on 7th October.
2. A domestic incident occurred on 9th October.
3. A domestic incident occurred on 14th October.

HEMBLINGTON no recorded crime.

Finally if you have any concerns you wish to discuss please contact myself or a member of the Acle Safer Neighbourhood Team call the police non-emergency number 101 or e-mail sntacle@norfolk.pnn.police.uk

Until next time PCSO 8238 Bob Hall

OLD BLOFIELD CALENDARS 2018.

Calendars with views of 'Old Blofield and Hemblington' are on sale at £5 from the Post Office shops in Blofield and Blofield Heath. Proceeds from their sale will help the Hand in Hand Foundation with its work among underprivileged children in Zimbabwe. A gift for yourself or a friend and a benefit for a needy child.

HEMBLINGTON PRE-SCHOOL. * NEW HOURS WEDNESDAYS*

Based at Heathlands Village Hall. Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9.30 - 12.30, Weds includes lunch club. Friendly, professional staff. Lovely light spacious hall, free flow play to outdoors area. Stimulating activities to develop your child's learning in line with Early Years Foundation Stage. Forest Friends activities. Some spaces available so call now to arrange a visit and discuss your child's needs. 01603 712464 (office hours) or 07716 869506.

BLAFELDA (BLOFIELD) PROBUS CLUB

This club provides an enjoyable social meeting point for gentlemen who are retired or about to retire. We meet for lunch on the third Wednesday of every month at The Kings Head, Station Road, Lingwood NR13 4AZ 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 particular local interest. We have vacancies for new members so if you think you may be interested, try us out by contacting : Alex Mason on 01603 716735, email: alexwmason@yahoo.co.uk or Hilary Hammond on 01603 717750, email: handj.hammond@btinternet.com

HORNING BRIDGE CLUB.

On Tuesday 12th December from 10am to 1.00pm approximately, we will be holding our next Morning Duplicate Bridge session at Horning Village Hall (Annexe at rear). Please be in your seats by 09.45am at the latest. Cost £2.50 including refreshments. Friendly atmosphere, players from other clubs most welcome. Come with a partner, if preferred but we will find you a partner anyway. Just turn up - no need to book, but for any enquiries contact Ron 01603 781416 or Jenny 01603 720826. Please note that these events are now being run monthly by the club, similar bridge meetings will be held in future on the morning of the second Tuesday of each month viz. 9th January, 13th February, 13th March, 10th April etc. at the same time.

WROXHAM BURE VALLEY ROTARY CLUB.

Despite the poor weather our "Purple for Polio" collection to help end polio, at Roy's at the end of October, raised £333 which, when multiplied up by the contribution from the Bill Gates foundation, will mean we raised £1,000, so a big thank you to all who contributed! The club has also planted more purple crocuses this autumn to further raise awareness in Wroxham, Hoveton and Horning. Progress continues to be made, we are getting very close to finally eradicating this terrible disease across the world.

We have been busy polishing Santa's sleigh ready for our Christmas collections in December – in fact we have rebuilt it as we have a new permanent trailer for it. Look out for us in Sprowston, Spixworth, Blofield, Stalham and other locations in December!

We are always pleased to welcome new members - you can pop along and meet us any Monday evening to find out a bit more about us and what we get up to, but please contact our secretary Anne Kittle in advance on 07887 523071 to check the meeting details and to ensure we have food for you. Visit our web-site on www.wroxhamrotary.org.uk for more information and details of our exciting programme for 2017/8, or our Facebook page on www.facebook.com/wroxhamburevalleyrotaryclub or contact our president, Joyce Plant on 01692 630152.

There is no better way to give something back to the local community...and no better time than now.

www.heathlandscommunitycentre.org.uk

HEATHLANDS SOCIAL CLUB - Guest Ales for December.

Lacon's "Saint Nick's" 4.2% abv and Humpty Dumpty "Christmas Crackling" 4.5% abv, both priced at £2.60 pint Members, £3.00 pint Non Members.

Our selection of Lagers, Wines, Spirits and Soft Drinks makes the Social Club a superb meeting place. Not a Member? Our Membership rates are low and are soon recouped with our very low prices. New Members are always welcomed. Normal opening Tuesday and Wednesday from 7.30pm until 11pm (last orders 10.30pm.) Thursday & Friday from 7.30pm & Saturday from 5.30pm – open until late.

Christmas and New Year: Saturday 23rd open at 5.30 and will close at 11.00pm, Sunday 24th open at 7.30pm and will close at 10.30pm Monday 25th December 12 - 2.00pm sharp - 28th - 30th - Again 7.30pm till 11.00pm
Closed New Year's Eve.

OCAL POINT DELIVERIES

We are very short of volunteer delivery people for Blofield Heath and Little Plumstead, so deliveries are in danger. Please help us make our monthly deliveries by offering to deliver some copies in your local area. Are you willing? Please contact the editor Granville Hornsby on 01603 713141 or email editor@focalpointonline.org.uk

THE MONDAY CLUB - is held at Heathlands on a completely voluntary basis. We are short of drivers and would be grateful for extra help. Please contact Pam Brooks 01603 715431 for details if you can help, either on a regular or an occasional basis.

1st HEMBLINGTON BROWNIES.

This is a thriving and fun unit, we earn badges, go on adventures, sing songs, play games and most of all have a lot of fun along the way.

Brownies is a fantastic opportunity for your daughter to meet new friends, face new challenges and experience nights away from home. We go on sleepovers and Brownie holidays throughout the year!

For more information email diana.b.ley@icloud.com, phone 01603 270158 or 07742 876899

HEMBLINGTON BABY AND TODDLER CLUB (part of Hemblington Pre-School).

Join us every Wednesday from 9.30am to 11.30am (term time only) at Heathlands, Blofield Heath. Babies and toddlers are able to play and explore in a safe and fun environment. Lots to experience including playdough, painting, water play, craft activities, music, singing, ride-ons, puzzles etc. with an area for smaller members! Something for everyone!

Sharon Fielder, health visitor holds a baby clinic on the second Wednesday of every month (term time only).

Stay for the session and enjoy an excellent opportunity to come together to find support and advice in a friendly and caring environment. No booking necessary. We look forward to seeing you. Refreshments available. For more details please contact Fiona Trimble on 01603 712464 or 07716 869506 email hemblingtonpre-school@gmail.com.

BLOFIELD PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP.

Margaret Harker Hall, Yarmouth Road, Blofield. Telephone 01603 712498.

A friendly, committee run playgroup for children aged from 2 ½ 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 to 12.10pm, 12.10pm to 3.10pm or 9.10am to 3.10pm. Call us for more info or to book a visit. Visit our FACEBOOK page: www.facebook.com/BlofieldPre-schoolPlaygroup or follow us on Twitter: @BlofieldPreSch

POPPIES COMMUNITY CAFE.

We meet every Wednesday from 10.00am until 12.00 noon in Blofield Courthouse. There is disabled parking and a ramp for easy entry. Come and join us for good food, company and friendship.

You will be offered a selection of savouries, cakes, biscuits and tea or coffee, all for a small donation which helps to pay the rent. Come along each week for a happy time and a sing song.

W.E.A. SPRING COURSE.

"Famous Scientists" with tutor Glen Barrett. Looking at work, lives and challenges of some of the great scientists. Seven sessions starting on Tuesday, 23rd January 10.00am to 12noon at Blofield Courthouse. The fee is £50.40p.

For more details please call 01603 713080.

READERS' LETTERS

SPEEDING DRIVERS - I sympathize with the reader who had lost her cats due to careless drivers (Focal Point November 2017). We lost our cat too on the Little Plumstead estate. Someone knocked our cat over and left him to die. People drive far too fast on the estate, despite there being lots of cats and children running around. Another road is Broad Lane between Greater Plumstead and Little Plumstead. Most of the speeders are parents to and from the school. Most are driving too fast and very dangerously for such a small road. What has happened to caring for other drivers as well as oneself and ones passengers? Drive carefully, drive safely.
Vera, Little Plumstead.

HALLOWEEN

Congratulations to all the children who were out on Halloween. You were polite and not greedy. You were having fun and that was good to see. So well done to you all and parents too.

Barbara, Blofield Heath.

THE LATE CAROLE REILLY

I have been so touched by the friendship and concern shown by so many people after the loss of my dear Carole. Donations in her memory reached £510. She would have been so amazed. We did not take part in many village activities but having lived here for all her years so many of you knew and cared for her. My sincere thanks to all. Les Reilly.

Editors note: Your letters are very welcome but please be aware that we must have the sender's full contact details for verification (not for publishing). **Letters without contact details will not be published.**

BABYSITTING & CHILDMINDING.

CASSIE CUSHING (24). BA (Hons) in Childhood Studies, first aid trained, experience with children of all ages including those with special educational needs.

Available most weekends. 07881 207613 or 01603 714429

OFSTED REGISTERED CHILDMINDER in Blofield Heath with a Good rating given in September 2016.

Vacancies available on all days for children under the age of 5.

Please call Nina on 01603 716978 or email on nina-bowen@outlook.com for further information.

FOCAL POINT ENTRIES / CONTRIBUTIONS – MAXIMUM 100 WORDS (except Readers' Letters - 120 words)

Entries (except trade adverts) via email please to Andy Broad, andyb@focalpointonline.org.uk not forgetting to include your name and address. Written entries; please deliver to Granville Hornsby, 11 Borton Rd, Blofield Heath, NR13 4RU. **CLOSING DATE** for items for the February 2018 edition, BY (**NOT ON** please) the 14th January 2018.

BLOFIELD HEATH & Lt. PLUMSTEAD DELIVERY TEAM

Delivery enquiries and volunteers, please contact Granville Hornsby 01603 713141 or editor@focalpointonline.org.uk

BLOFIELD DELIVERY TEAM

Delivery enquiries and volunteers, please contact Mike Tetlow on 01603 715253 or miketetlow1@gmail.com

ALL TRADE ADVERTISING

Final closing date is the 14th of the preceding month but we need your new booking & artwork by 10th please.

Enquiries to; Granville Hornsby, 11 Borton Rd, Blofield Heath, NR13 4RU. Tel. 01603 713141.

Email: editor@focalpointonline.org.uk

PAYMENTS & DONATIONS; Paypal: editor@focalpointonline.org.uk or by BACS (bank transfer) to

HSBC: Focal Point A/c.21524046. Sort: 403550.

Focal Point community newsletter is published and delivered free of charge by volunteers to houses in Blofield Heath, Blofield, Hemblington & Little Plumstead. 2300 copies are printed for each issue. Revenue is used to pay for the printing and other production expenses. Proceeds are used to help provide facilities and services for events at Heathlands Community Centre as and when funds permit. Focal Point, is compiled by Andy Broad and edited and published by Granville Hornsby. The Publisher does not necessarily endorse any goods or services offered in advertisements or content of copy published. The acceptance of any item or advertisement is solely at the discretion of the editor, who reserves the right to edit submitted items and whose decision is final.

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