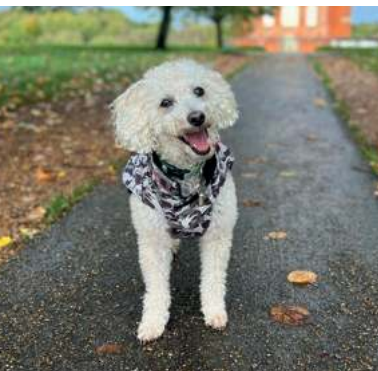


Hamble Village News —

March 2023

HAMBLE
PARISH
— COUNCIL —



Residents' Pets (and owners): Marni and Liebherr (Lynne), Louie (Livvy) and Kenzo (Steph)

Share your pet photos for us to include in future newsletters — either send them to us via Facebook message, or email them to danielle@smartmarketinguk.com

WELCOME TO YOUR LATEST NEWSLETTER!

A belated Happy New Year from the Parish Council Team! This newsletter comes to you later than normal as we wanted to make sure we could bring you the most up to date information regarding the Hamble Airfield planning application. You will not be surprised to learn that this has dominated the work of staff and councillors over the last couple of months and is likely to continue for a couple more. But there's more about that inside!

Although Christmas seems a distant memory, it's not too late to thank the organisers of Carols in the Square for this year's carol concert and their hard work on Christmas Eve. Most people have other things in mind at this time of the year but without their organisation and efforts it would not be possible. David de Krester who took over running the event four years ago has decided it is now time to step aside and for someone else to take it on. If you are able to assist, please contact the office so we can put you in touch.

As well as the Carols we had the wonderful advent window displays which have become an established part of Christmas in Hamble. The time, creativity and effort that went into them all cannot be underestimated, so thank you to the organisers and all the participants — your efforts were much appreciated.

My final thanks of the new year are to the volunteers at Place 2B which yet again provided a warm, happy space for people on Christmas Day to come together and enjoy a meal at the Priory Centre. I know a lot of people are involved in the project and you are some of the village's unsung heroes — setting aside your own Christmas Day to ensure others have a memorable one. Thank you.

The beginning of the year is the time at which the Council sets its budget. Due to inflationary pressures, increased costs, and the financial demands of fighting the Hamble Airfield application, this year's budget was not an easy one. It has resulted in us increasing fees and charges for the use of our facilities, as well as increasing the amount we raise from residents through the precept by £13.08 per year. More information on this can be found on page 7.

Lastly, we are planning a further public briefing on the Hamble Airfield application ahead of the Regulatory Committee. We hope to give an update on Statutory Consultees and if published the report that will be going to Committee. It will also be a good opportunity to marshal support for the final stage in the campaign to stop the quarry by making sure the decision makers at Hampshire County Council understand the impact of approving the application. Not knowing the outcome of the application, we will also be planning our Annual Parish Meeting — which is the community's chance to come together to discuss issues that are important to them. This is likely to be towards the end of May. We understand that the Hamble Airfield application will certainly be part of that discussion — regardless of the outcome — but we would also like to hear about other items you might want to discuss. Please let us know by speaking to a local parish councillor or contacting the Parish Office.

Cllr Simon Hand

Chair of Hamble Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

☎ 023 8045 3422 🌐 hambleparishcouncil.gov.uk ✉ clerk@hambleparishcouncil.gov.uk 📱 @hamblepc

APPLICATION TO EXTRACT SAND AND GRAVEL FROM HAMBLE AIRFIELD: UPDATE

Where are we in the process?

In December, Cemex responded to Hampshire County Council's (HCC) request for further information in respect of the Hamble Airfield Gravel Extraction Planning Application (Regulation 25 Notice). This led to a new consultation exercise which gave the community and Statutory Consultees the opportunity to review this new information and submit feedback to HCC.

We submitted a draft response to HCC at the end of January, and an update to this response once the Statutory Consultees' feedback was received. We have reserved the right to make further comments if more information becomes available – and are keeping a very close eye on this.



You can view our response here: bit.ly/3EeRuHp

What did the Statutory Consultees say?

The most disappointing response came from HCC Highways. In their response they do not rule out a quarry on the Airfield despite all the known problems that exist with Hamble Lane. Having said this, we understand that a further response will be published by Highways which sets out the requirements and conditions that Cemex will need to meet to ensure that Highways can support the scheme and will be following this situation carefully.

We released a press statement in relation to the Highways response, which you can view here: bit.ly/3S3GLVX



The response from the Flood Authority is interesting as it has raised a number of questions that echo many concerns that residents have voiced. They have opposed the application as it is currently set out, although they have suggested some changes which, if met, could overcome their concerns. It is for Cemex to provide further evidence to address these concerns.

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) has raised a number of concerns, but may have exceeded the remit of their brief. The status of their response is currently unclear.

Network Rail's response makes no mention of the impact of the additional heavy goods vehicle movements on the bridge.

At the time of writing, Natural England's response has not been received.

What was the community's response?

The local community's response to the consultation has been fantastic with over 3,100 responses received. This makes it the largest minerals application that Hampshire County Council has dealt with. Thank you to all businesses, local schools, GPs, residents, and the Hamble Peninsular Residents Group for your huge efforts in opposing the application so far.

As we enter the final stages of this application, your voice becomes our most important tool in fighting these proposals. To date, the technical arguments (and specifically, exploring the claims made by Cemex in their application) have formed the bedrock of our opposition as ultimately it is planning grounds on which all planning applications are made. However, as MP Paul Holmes stated in our recent public meeting, Councillors on the Regulatory Committee cannot fail to be influenced to some extent by public opinion, so now is the time to raise the profile of the application and ensure that the many concerns of the community are heard.

What happens next?

The planning team at Hampshire County Council is currently reviewing each of the 3,100 responses sent to them in respect of the application. They will then use this information to produce a report for the Regulatory Committee to consider. This report will summarise the evidence, responses, and their recommendation to the Committee.

APPLICATION TO EXTRACT SAND AND GRAVEL FROM HAMBLE AIRFIELD: UPDATE

While the responses from Statutory Consultees will be given the most weight as 'experts' in their fields, every response will be taken into account, and a point only needs to be made once (i.e., by one resident) to be given consideration. In terms of community responses, those which speak from direct experience are often the most compelling – this is why we have advised you to talk about how the quarry is likely to affect you personally.

What happens at a Regulatory Committee Meeting?

The Regulatory Committee will consider the report produced by the HCC case officer and will hold a meeting to discuss the application. At this meeting, a small number of people will be able to address the committee, in addition to Cemex (or their agent). Cemex will be given the same total length of time as those speaking against the proposal to respond to the issues raised by objectors.

The committee will then consider the representations made and debate the application. Experts will be on standby to answer questions from the Committee. By the end of the meeting the Councillors will be asked to vote and decide whether to approve or reject the application.

Many of the Councillors that sit on the Committee will come from other parts of the county and may not be familiar with Hamble. They are likely to visit Hamble before the meeting so they can get a better understanding of the site and potential impact on the village – but we will not be told when this site visit will happen.

The date of the meeting at which the Hamble Airfield application will be decided has not yet been set. Wednesday 19 April is still a possibility but given the number of responses that the team is having to consider it might well be Wednesday 17 May. As soon as we know we will share it with you via noticeboards and

social media. We'll also update you on the arrangements for the meeting itself – which will be held at Winchester.

Can the decision be appealed?

If the Regulatory Committee reject the application, they will set out the grounds for refusal. If Cemex decides to appeal the decision it will be based on these grounds.

If the very worst happens, and the application is approved, **we have no right to appeal**. A third party (which is what the community and the Parish Council are) cannot lodge a planning appeal. Our only right of reply could take the form of a judicial review – but we can only take the matter to a JR on procedural matters. We cannot request a review because we disagree with the decision, or because we feel Cemex's evidence was flawed. We can only request a review if we believe that HCC has not followed due process.

Realistically, this means that we have just one opportunity to stop the application – there won't be any second chances.

If the application is approved, can we ask for measures which will reduce the impact on the village?

If approved, the Planning Authority would look to work with the applicant on the creation of a number of detailed documents such as a Management Plan. This would set out the hours of operation, how they would be expected to operate it on a daily basis, and any conditions that have to be met, such as dust suppression and a range of other technical points.

As your Parish Council, we are currently working on a further representation to HCC which sets out some high-level conditions which we want the Regulatory Committee to consider in the event that the application is approved. These conditions include things such as no work being allowed to start... (continued overleaf)

APPLICATION TO EXTRACT SAND AND GRAVEL FROM HAMBLE AIRFIELD: UPDATE

on the quarry until significant investment is made in improving Hamble Lane – much more than the £15m that has been quoted elsewhere. There is of course the chance that, even if the application is approved, if the mitigations are such that Cemex is not prepared to fund them, the quarry may not proceed.

What can the community do next to fight the application?

We hope to arrange another meeting with you towards the end of March, before the application is considered by the Regulatory Committee.

At this meeting, we will update you on the case officer's report to the Regulatory Committee (if it has been published by this point) and what their recommendations are, both in terms of whether the application should be approved, and – if approval is recommended – what they suggest should be asked of Cemex in relation to mitigation.

At this point, we will also give you full details on what our experience tells us is the most effective community strategy in terms of lobbying Councillors on the Regulatory Committee. Timing is so important, and we want to make absolutely sure that they hear the concerns of the village at the moment at which they are considering the application. We don't want to start this process too early as there is a risk of message fatigue. We want to target Councillors in the window just ahead of the meeting when they are actively researching and considering the application and are at their most receptive.

We also plan to discuss practical matters, like how we can help residents attend the Regulatory Committee meeting in Winchester.

Please attend this meeting if you can, but if you are unable, we will publish full guidance in future newsletters, on social media, and on noticeboards throughout the village.

What are the Parish Council's next steps?

We are currently producing two further responses to the consultation for HCC to consider:

- The first of these pulls together the non-planning related community concerns. The 'How This Will Impact You' survey which we recently undertook has provided lots of information from the village about your concerns. By collating these in a single place we hope to create a framework that the Regulatory Committee can use to assess the non-planning issues that are so important to us all.
- The second response will set out some of the high-level conditions that we would want the Regulatory Committee to consider if the very worst happens, and they decide to approve the application.

We are arranging a further public meeting for the end of March.

We have been sending updates to media contacts regularly over the last 6 months, and will continue to do so. We intend to arrange a press briefing closer to the Regulatory Committee when coverage will have maximum impact.

In addition to the media briefing, we will also look to provide a range of materials to the Councillors on the Regulatory Committee just ahead of the meeting, making sure we target the information in the window ahead of the meeting when they will be most receptive.

We will continue to ensure that as many people in Hamble as possible are kept updated on the progress of the application through these newsletters, noticeboards throughout the village, and social media updates.

HOW YOUR PARISH COUNCIL HAS REPRESENTED YOU

As your Parish Council, elected by you, we are here to represent your wishes.

WE OPPOSE THIS PLANNING APPLICATION

Our strategy throughout has been to focus on planning matters because experience tells us that **it is on planning matters on which planning applications are decided.**

Transport is the most significant planning issue, and while some of these concerns could be overcome with investment, there is unlikely to be a viable/affordable solution.

Health concerns, the safety of your children travelling to school, the impact on local businesses, air quality, and flood risk are all vitally important – and we've covered these to a lesser extent in our responses to HCC.

We haven't gone into detail on these areas for two reasons:

- Our strategy has been to concentrate on planning matters which these are not; and
- it is far more compelling for the schools to talk about issues which affect school children, and for local businesses to talk about the effect the quarry will have on their day-to-day operations than for the Parish Council to write about these as a third party. We recognise the expertise in these areas.

HCC will consider ALL arguments – regardless of whether it has come from a resident or the Parish Council. Objections only need to be raised once to be considered.

In fighting this application, **we have spent £16,000 to date on independent specialists** who have guided our response. Every specialist we have employed has had significant experience of the planning process – on both sides of the fence.

As a local government body, **we do not have the same freedom as residents** in the actions we can take – but would hope that, through our public meetings, regular updates, newsletters, social activity, discussions with residents, Q&A responses, and media coverage, we have demonstrated our commitment to opposition.

The Parish Council will not benefit in any way from this application being approved. While S106 contributions may be received, they will be earmarked for offsetting some of the impact of the quarry and paid to HCC.

Hamble Airfield was put into the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan in 2013 (predating the current configuration of Parish Council staff and Councillors), and this means that **the principle of gravel extraction from the site has already been agreed.** This puts us all on a back foot and makes our task more difficult, but not insurmountable.

As a Statutory Consultee, the Parish Council can continue to make representations to HCC right up until the date of the Regulatory Committee meeting. When we see the report from the case officer, if we think there are gaps, we will make further representations.

WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

It is only through combined and co-ordinated action that we can fight this application.

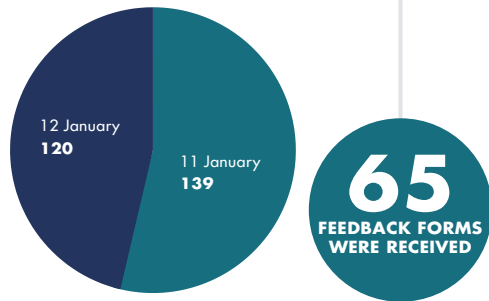
HAMBLE PUBLIC MEETING SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who attended our public meetings on 11 and 12 January, where we provided an update on the Hamble Airfield application, and answered questions from residents.

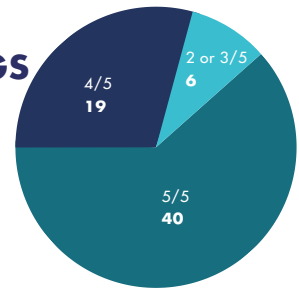
After the meetings, we asked for feedback so that we can ensure that residents attending future meetings have the best possible experience. A summary of this feedback is below. Full results can be found on our website here: bit.ly/3XEwCAn



HOW MANY PEOPLE REGISTERED TO ATTEND?



WHAT RATINGS DID THE MEETINGS RECEIVE?



65
FEEDBACK FORMS
WERE RECEIVED

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- A portable mic could be given to people asking questions as this would enable everyone to hear
- Unfortunately the room that held the meeting was cold to be sat down in for 1.5hrs
- Well organised but time for public contributions too limited
- A time limit for entrance should be given as it was quite chaotic
- It would have been really useful to have received a reminder via text the day before &/or first thing in the morning

GENERAL COMMENTS

It is gratifying to know that Hamble Parish Council, has taken the initiative to take on board the views of the parishioners, as support, and carefully track the proposed changes to our village, its environment, and manage, as best we can, the impact these proposals will have on years to come on our local community.

I honestly expected the parish council to have a more structured approach that gave guidance on what the substance and content of the objections should be. Residents were not given sufficient time to ask questions and the handling of the meeting by the chair was poor.

A warm welcome on arrival. Venue good. Meeting was well chaired and very informative. We appreciated the directions for completing objections. Presentations were very clear. We did however expect there to be representation from Cemex at the meeting, particularly as they are wanting to establish themselves in the heart of our community and should be wanting to understand the views of people whose everyday lives will be affected by decisions they are making.

A very impressive well organised, chaired and presented public meeting. We came away from the meeting much better informed and more capable of putting together a hopefully effective response to the proposal.

The contributions from the councillors and guest speakers was most informative, and obviously a substantial amount of research had taken place.

I think it's highly dangerous for the Parish Council to pursue this heavily biased path of pitching ones objections on Traffic and Hamble Lane - based on the fact that it's the Achilles heel of Cemex's Application. If this application goes to appeal we can only discuss issues that are already on the table - we cannot suddenly bring new issues up.

Seriously impressed with the Parish Council and its organisation regarding this.

It was well organised and publicised. A good range of speakers, and it was kept (excellently) to time.

COUNCIL LED NEWS CONTINUED

2023/24 PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET

Producing this year's budget was not an easy task. Like everyone, the Parish Council has been hit by the effects of inflation across all our activities, but this has been compounded by the costs associated with fighting the Hamble Airfield application.

As a result, we have had to increase fees and charges for the use of our facilities, as well as increasing the amount we raise from residents through the precept.

This year the average precept will be £143.89, which is an increase of £13.08 on last year. This equates to a weekly increase of 25p. To cap the increase, we have also had to use some of our reserves and delay some of the projects we had hoped to start this year.

Having said this, we have a few projects for 2023/24 which are designed to either help us operate more effectively or to increase income to offset our costs.

We'll present further details in future newsletters.

HAMBLE CAROLS IN THE SQUARE

Hamble Carols in the Square on Christmas Eve has been running for c.30 years and is an important part of our village Christmas celebrations. We've seen the event grow in popularity over recent years; it was missed due to Covid19 but back in 2022 with c.1,000 people in attendance. The event brings together our community and is particularly popular with families and younger children.

The organisers have decided that it is time to pass on the event to encourage new ideas and fresh energy. We would like to hear from anyone who would be interested either individually or as part of a small group to run the 2023 celebrations. The event has been templated and full guidance will be provided during the hand-over.

If you are interested in helping, please contact the Parish Office, and we will pass your details onto the organisers.

David de Kretser, Hamble Carols

NEW DEFIBRILLATOR AT ROY UNDERDOWN PAVILION

Have you spotted our new defibrillator at Roy Underdown Pavilion?

It has been purchased by the Parish Council but installed for us by Solent Recreational Sports, to whom we are very grateful.

In the UK there are more than 30,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests a year where emergency medical services attempt to resuscitate. The survival rate is low – only one in 10 people that have a cardiac arrest outside of a hospital survive. However, if defibrillation is used within three to five minutes it can produce survival rates as high as 50%–70%.

While we hope that our community's new defibrillator will never be needed, it is there in the event that the worst happens.



If you'd like to find your nearest defibrillator, use the 'Save a Life' app.



Warm packs available from Citizens Advice Eastleigh



Eastleigh - 101 Leigh Road Monday-Thursday 10-12
Bursledon - Piland's Community Centre Mondays 10-12
Hedge End - United Reformed Church Thursdays 10-12
Hamble - Mercury Centre 1st Wednesday 10-12

COUNCIL LED NEWS CONTINUED

RANGER'S REMARKS

Belated Happy New Year, Hamble Habitants!

I recently clicked on to a diabetes awareness website and it asked me if I accept cookies... I thought 'is this a trick question?'

A large amount of planting was completed back in December as part of ongoing operations to add colour, attract more wildlife, and enhance the natural scenery around Hamble's Green spaces. This included the planting of trees, hedgerow and bulbs alongside the water pumping station and dinghy park, aided with many thanks to the community payback scheme. The idea there is to primarily add a bit of natural camouflage around the wastewater pumping station and then continuing alongside the dinghy park adding shelter, dwellings, and food supplies to the local wildlife. To help finance the project, we were awarded a grant from the campaign for the protection of rural England.

Bulbs have also been planted on the village green with much appreciated help from the local conservation volunteers. We have also planted bulbs around the village; 4750 bulbs have been planted in total.

We all experience the sound of birds cooing, chattering, or warbling away in the background. However, there is a very distinct drumming sound we will hear up in the trees, particularly now as we drift towards the spring. This is the sound of the woodpecker.

Hands up who wants to read some fun woodpecker facts... All of you? Great, here goes...

- Instead of using a song like most other birds, male woodpeckers master a drumbeat to mark their territories and attract a mate.
- All species of woodpecker use drumming to communicate. During mating season, male woodpeckers may drum up to 600 times a day until a female responds.
- Although there are over 200 species of woodpecker in the world, there are only 3 species in the UK: the Great Spotted Woodpecker, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, and the Green Woodpecker.
- The Green Woodpeckers tongue accounts for around one third of its body length! This is around 10cm long.
- In most species of woodpecker, both sexes take it in turns to incubate eggs for up to 12 days.

Until next month....

Mark Cowley, Estate Ranger

COMMUNITY NEWS

GRANTS PROVIDED DURING 2022/23

The grant budget for 2022/23 was £4,500, of which 6 payments (totalling £3,247) have been approved.

These are as follows:

- £500 to Eastleigh Citizen's Advice to support the 'drop in' clinics that they provide at the Mercury Hub
- £1,590 to St. Andrew's Church to repair the front fence and improve/repair paving at the village Cenotaph
- £250 to Place 2B
- £250 to Hedge End Community Speedwatch
- £500 to Hamble Carols
- £157 to MARA

CALLING ALL COMMUNITY GROUPS!

From time to time, the Parish Council is contacted by Eastleigh Borough Council, Hampshire County Council, and other organisations with opportunities for community groups to apply for grants or other forms of support.

If you would like us to forward these details to you, please register with us here: bit.ly/3YYEKg8





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COMMUNITY NEWS CONTINUED

HAMBLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Nevil Shute learnt to sail from the Hamble River in the early 1920s.

At the Society's last meeting, well-known local writer and speaker on maritime matters, David Henshall, known as Dougal, gave a fascinating illustrated talk highlighting the local influences that helped Nevil Shute craft his books. Nevil Shute was one of the world's best-selling authors of his time, writing classic novels such as "A Town like Alice" and "On the Beach", which were both made into films.

Although not a southerner by birth, Shute ended up making the Solent area his home, as it was an ideal location for him to indulge in the two great loves of his life: aviation and sailing.

At the same time as he was learning the art of sailing in a Hamble based yacht at Luke's Boatyard, Shute was storing away details of locations and activities that would then re-appear in his novels.

Many of the influences that shaped his novels came from the area that we, as locals, know so well: Hamble, Southampton Water, and the City, plus the Western Solent. From the problems of getting down the Hamble River and across to Calshot in a foul tide, to the military build-up in the Solent prior to D-Day, then post war aviation from Southampton, Shute used his experiences and then set them out in a way that we can clearly identify. He wrote 24 books that included mentions of the Bugle, Hooker's Bakery, Hamble Airfield, Air Service Training and Faireys Aviation at Hamble Point. See the Society's website www.hamblehistory.org.uk for a full report of the talk.

The Society's next meeting is on Thursday 6 April, 7.30pm, at the Memorial Hall (Rear Hall) when Jake Simpkin will be talking about 'Southampton Passenger Ships and Docks'.

HAMBLE LADIES GROUP

We held our AGM in January. All Committee Members are happy to continue in their roles and we were pleased to announce the details of donations made to various local organisations.

Valerie Archibald gave a very interesting talk on The England Coastal Path. When this is completed, it will be 3,000 miles long and part of the path runs through Netley, Hamble, and Warsash. Valerie told us that she had walked almost a quarter of the path with plans to do a lot more. The signposts can be recognised by the black and white acorn logo. The path is for walkers, horseriders, and cyclists. Local volunteers help to maintain it. You can find more details here: <https://bit.ly/3YRDM54>

In February Susie Creal gave us a talk on Pyjama Fairies which is a charity that makes specially adapted pyjamas and gowns for children going into hospital. They also make them for adults who may be involved in transplant operations. The charity started in 2016 and now has 115 'Fairies' sewing nationwide. There is a very strict quality control on the fabric used and also on the patterns. Susie's main job now is checking all garments before they are sent to hospitals making sure they are up to the standard required. Susie's talk was so unexpected as none of us knew what a Pyjama Fairy was before she told us all about it. So very interesting and worth checking their website: <https://pyjamafairies.org/>

Paul McNeil is with us on 14 March giving us an insight into Genealogy and his TV show.

Our Programme is as follows:

- 11 April: Hamble Youth Club – David Pearson
- 9 May: Celebration of King's Coronation
- 13 June: Hamble Independent Lifeboat – Paul Ackland

2pm start. Priory Centre, Hamble Church. Everyone welcome.

Bobby Conduit, 023 80 453626

COMMUNITY NEWS CONTINUED

HENVILLE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

If you are a Hamble resident under the age of 25, or Hamble youth group, funding is available for educational resources such as:

- Books
- Assistance with fees for training courses
- Educational visits/trips
- Resources/equipment
- Special educational needs
- Private tutoring
- Sporting and musical activities may also be considered

In 1848 the Reverend Charles Henville founded the Trust, giving the rent from Henville House to fund it. This continued after his death but in the latter part of the 20th century the house was sold, and the money raised

was invested wisely so that his wish to help the residents and youth groups of Hamble who are under 25 years of age could continue to be achieved.

The Trust meets 4 times a year (March, June, September, and December) to consider and/or distribute the funding. Grants are awarded to those whom the Trustees consider are in the greatest need or would benefit the most.

Please telephone Wendy Mason (023 80 452720) for further information and/or an application form. The form is easy to complete, and confidential advice is available if you should require any help.

All applications are confidential so please do not hesitate to apply if you feel that there is something that the Trust may be able to help you with.

HAMBLE PLAYERS

2023 is going to be a busy year for the Players. We have two plays, some murder mystery evenings, and of course our very popular pantomime in December, which this year is Cinderella. The first of our offerings is:

'Out of Focus': a comedy play by Peter Gordon

- Tuesday 28 March – Saturday 1 April 2023
- All performances in Hamble Memorial Hall at 7.30pm

This play is set in the annexe of a church hall, where a series of characters from the local community descend on the hall for a Brownie troupe meeting, a badminton game, table tennis, auditions for the vicar's wife's pantomime and an illustrated talk on steam locomotives. Confusion reigns until everyone finally unites for a common case.... pantomime!

Tickets are now on sale. Call the Box Office on 02380 440660 or go online to www.ticketsource.co.uk/hambleplayers. As usual there will be a bar and our exceptional raffle.

For further information please contact the Membership Secretary, Maria (mariahamble@icloud.com) or any member.

HAMBLE FLOWER CLUB

We had a very enjoyable time at our Christmas Flower Demonstration and are looking forward to a full programme for 2023.

For those of you who do not know, we meet at the Memorial Hall in Hamble village on the second Monday of every month at 1.30pm unless otherwise stated.

On Monday 13 March it will be our annual AGM – with tea and cake. If you wish to join, please come along at 1.30pm and meet our friendly membership.

The rest of the year is full of demonstrations, visits, and workshops.

Everyone is welcome.

JOIN THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

The Royal British Legion will be holding their next meeting on Monday 10 April at 7pm at Hamble Club. Existing members and anyone interested in joining would be most welcome.

Please come along and see what the Legion is all about.

COMMUNITY NEWS CONTINUED

RSYC HOSTS NEXT GENERATION OF SAILORS



On the weekend of 15 October 2022, the Royal Southern Yacht Club was delighted to welcome 152 Optimist sailors, aged 7-14 for their end of year regatta. This event was the largest dinghy event the Club has managed in recent years, and it was great to see the Club and the village welcome so many of these young sailors. Unfortunately, on Saturday it was too windy for the youngest sailors to sail and the more experienced sailors managed one race out of the scheduled three races. However, there were smiles all round as the sailors and their parents enjoyed Hamble hospitality.

Sunday's weather was considerably better and both fleets enjoyed some great racing. The winners for the weekend were Lila Edwards in the Main Fleet and Ruby Coster in Regatta Fleet.

Prizes were awarded by the Royal Southern's vice commodore, Gordon Craigen who commented:

'It has been a real privilege for the Royal Southern to welcome the next generation of sailors. Their spirit and enthusiasm for sailing even on a chilly weekend gives me confidence that the UK will continue to produce great sailors who are able to compete nationally and internationally. My thanks to all who competed and to the parents and volunteers who supported the event'.



Photo Credit: Paul Sanwell

HAMBLE CHURCH SURVEY

Firstly, thank you to all those who completed the questionnaire asking for your views on what Hamble villagers would like from their parish church in the future. Although over 2,000 questionnaires were distributed, it was disappointing that only 92 were returned. On the positive side, the responses included much appreciation for all that the church is currently doing, and its importance as a focal point for the village in good times and in bad. There was also great appreciation of Fr Graham's ministry and people wished him well in his retirement.



When asked about the style of worship, many respondents said they would like some of the services to be more modern, less formal, and more family orientated. Any changes will be for the new Vicar of Hamble to decide upon, once they are appointed later this year. If anyone would like to see the full results of the survey, these can be found on the church website: www.standrewshamble.co.uk where you will also find details of services and a wide range of other activities happening in the Priory Centre.

HAMBLE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

A recent task was to assist the Parish Council's Estates Team in implementing their plan to renovate Heather Gardens. Over recent years it had become overgrown and inaccessible, and the magnificent mature trees struggled to compete with the undergrowth and were largely unappreciated. A large team of volunteers were able to remove unwanted saplings and 'halo' around the bases of the tree trunks giving them a greater chance of surviving future droughts.

Our annual programme of tasks is displayed on our website and notice boards posted around the Common. Please note that the meeting place for the Parish tasks is at the Roy Underdown Pavilion at SO31 4RN whereas beach cleans and Eastleigh tasks meet at the School Lane car park.

If you would like to know more about us please either visit hambleconservationvolunteers.org.uk or contact Philip Rawlinson: philiprawlinson123@btinternet.com, 07810 453138.

COMMUNITY NEWS CONTINUED

UPDATE FROM THE MERCURY LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY HUB

It has been a busy time for the volunteers organising group activities and welcoming visitors to the Mercury during a very cold snap.

Bobby and Lorraine have been busy creating our recent window display for St. Valentine's Day. Decorated with an array of hearts of all sizes it was a beautiful and imaginative sight. Thanks to them and everyone who contributed to the display including the Knit and Natter group. The Quilling Group led by Irene has continued the theme in the display cabinet with some stunning greeting cards including a mischievous looking sheep!



In response to the Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal by the Disasters Emergency Committee it was decided to set up a 'Table Top Bring and Buy' to help raise money for such a worthy cause. If you have any unwanted gifts or suitable bric-a-brac please donate and buy something from a range of items other people have brought. The table top will be open during our normal opening hours: Monday to Saturday 10am to 1pm; Monday 2pm to 4pm and Wednesday 3.30pm to 5.30pm.

Keep an eye on Facebook for our weekly programme of activities and future special events including children's storytelling and fundraising coffee mornings in support of local organisations.

UPCOMING DATES

Upcoming Parish Council Meetings at the Roy Underdown Pavilion

Full Council
Monday 13 March
7pm

Planning Committee
Monday 27 February
Monday 20 March
7pm

Public Meeting
23 March (Provisional Date)

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call us on 01489 854 382 or visit leaders.co.uk

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**Place 2B Coffee and
Cake Morning**
25 February
10am

At the Priory Centre

**Royal Victoria Country
Park Heritage Walk**
12 March
10.15am - 1pm

At Royal Victoria Country Park.

**Hamble Flower Club
AGM**
13 March

**Hamble Ladies Group
Meeting**
14 March
2pm

At the Priory Centre

River Hamble Walk
23 March
11am

Meeting at Swanwick Shore Car
Park

**Guided Tour Around
Netley Military
Cemetery**
26 March
10.15am - 1pm

At Royal Victoria Country Park.

**Hamble Players: 'Out
Of Focus', A Comedy
Play By Peter Gordon**
28 March - 1 April
7.30pm

At Hamble Memorial Hall

**Hamble Local History
Society Meeting**
6 April
7.30pm

At Hamble Memorial Hall (Rear
Hall)

**Royal British Legion
Meeting**
10 April
7pm

At Hamble Club