



Black Redstart and Goldfinch (Peter Hyde) and pet photo - frog... or dog? (Karen Knight)

Share your pet or Hamble photos for us to include in future newsletters! Send them to us via Facebook, or email them to [danielle@smartmarketinguk.com](mailto:danielle@smartmarketinguk.com)

## WELCOME TO YOUR LATEST NEWSLETTER!



Here we are in December, and it is difficult to believe that we are already in touching distance of the end of another year. And what a year it has been!

The Hamble Airfield application continues to rumble along, with the latest (third) public consultation now underway, giving residents and statutory consultees (like Hamble Parish Council) until 15 December to respond. There's more information about this on **page 2** of this newsletter, but the bottom line is that, if you don't want to see a quarry in the middle of Hamble, you **MUST** write to Hampshire County Council now to tell them. Please don't leave it to someone else – the village's best chance of getting the Regulatory Committee to consider our objections is through volume of response.

Onto more positive matters, and I was thrilled to see some of the community events planned for Hamble over Christmas. It's a great testament to our village that we have so many residents who are willing to come together to create something special for the rest of the community to enjoy. One such example is the Christmas Eve Carols in Hamble Square, organised so well by David de Kretser for many years, with the mantle now passed to a new team of volunteers. The Hamble Advent Calendar is another wonderful Hamble Christmas tradition, and while the advent calendar itself is not taking place this year, the organisers have arranged a Christmas Trail instead. More information is on **page 6**.

While many of us are lucky enough to have a Christmas to look forward to, this is not the case for everyone in our

community. If you're in a position to do so, please do what you can to share goodwill with neighbours, by donating to Hound Basics Food Bank (drop off points include St. Andrew's Church, the Co-op on Coronation Parade, and Follands Sports & Social Club), or supporting one of the many charity events that are taking place in Hamble throughout December. We've included details of one or two in our Upcoming Dates (**page 12**).

If you need support this winter, please consider visiting one of the Citizens Advice 'Drop In' sessions at the Mercury Hub on the first Wednesday of every month, between 10am and midday. They offer such a brilliant service – far more than just the advice for which they are known. For example, they are currently offering fuel vouchers up to £147 for those in fuel poverty; they can help you to see if there are any benefits or grants that you can get to help pay energy bills; and they can provide you with a warm pack to help you minimise your heating costs.

Just a reminder that your next newsletter is due to be with you at the beginning of February, but if there are any significant updates on the Hamble Airfield application before then, we may well run a 'stop the presses' extra edition. In the meantime, I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas, and let's hope that 2024 brings good health and happiness to us all.

**Chris Jones,**  
Chair

## PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

☎ 023 8045 3422    🌐 [hambleparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://hambleparishcouncil.gov.uk)    ✉ [clerk@hambleparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hambleparishcouncil.gov.uk)    📱 @hamblepc

# UPDATE ON HAMBLE AIRFIELD APPLICATION





## Quick recap on the Cemex application:

Back in August 2023, Hampshire County Council (HCC) asked Cemex to clarify several areas relating to their Hamble Airfield planning application under planning 'Regulation 25'. These areas included: soils, ecology, restoration, air quality, and flooding.

Now that this information has been received from Cemex, we are being given the chance to review and respond.

## What's happened since the last newsletter?

Cemex has now provided answers to the environmental questions from HCC's Planning Authority. HCC has published all Cemex's new and revised 'technical' documents on their HCC planning portal (dated November 2023).

- HCC's full library for this planning application can be found on the HCC planning portal – ref HCC/2021/0787 (including 42 new and updated documents): <https://bit.ly/40Yip4w> 
- For quick access to the documents that Cemex have submitted in November 2023, you can review our HPC Cemex website where all documents are posted on one page: <https://bit.ly/40RocZu> 

## What do these new and revised documents say?

Steve Tilbury, HPC's planning consultant, has reviewed these new and revised documents from Cemex. He also attended the Full Council meeting on Monday 13 November 2023 to update the councillors and members of the public who joined us in person.

Steve's feedback was as follows:

- While Cemex has answered all of HCC's questions, there is very little new information in the documents updated/introduced. The responses are a mixture of rebuttal and additional information.
- Rebuttal responses assert that the consultee (i.e., the person or organisation questioning the information or assertions provided by Cemex) is incorrect or has misunderstood the submission. The response on noise impacts is one such example of this, with

Cemex saying that Eastleigh Borough Council is seeking to apply incorrect standards/benchmarks.

- In other cases, such as the management of groundwater (flooding) or risk to the stability of the railway cutting, additional analysis has been carried out and submitted.
- Much of the new information is contained within the air quality (health) information and flood run-off documents – but there is very little here that sheds new light on the application.
- Due diligence is at the heart of this exercise – HCC's request for further information was designed to ensure that they have something in writing from Cemex which covers off points raised by consultees. To this end, many of the questions asked by HCC were designed to fill gaps in Cemex's application; they did not cover areas of significance such as road safety.
- In terms of highways, HCC did not ask for further information, as the Highways officers have already received sufficient information to make a judgement on the application (in their opinion).

## What happens next?

We now have until **15 December 2023** to provide feedback on the new/revised information provided by Cemex. Following this date, HCC's Planning Department will collate their report ready to present it to the Regulatory Committee. This is the Committee that will decide whether to approve or reject the application.

## When will the decision be made?

- Given this timeline, **we anticipate February 2024 to be the earliest date when the Regulatory Committee will meet to decide on this application.**
- However, HCC's Planning team will confirm the actual Committee date in due course – we'll keep you posted.

## What can you do?

Cemex's submission gives us another opportunity to lobby HCC – even if these new/amended documents haven't made significant changes to the application.

The most important point is to make our voices heard now and in the run up to the Regulatory Committee (RC)

# UPDATE ON HAMBLE AIRFIELD APPLICATION



meeting in early 2024. **A large volume of responses from the community can make a difference to the Regulatory Committee's decision.**

- Most importantly when you write to HCC, highlight how this quarry will affect you, and your family. For example: your mental and/or physical health, your ability to enjoy your home and garden, your ability to commute OR work from home, or the impact of travelling and getting around. You could also consider safety when walking, access to public transport etc.
- If you can, aim to make it different to any response you have submitted previously. For example, focus on a different area of the application – such as air quality or flooding – and how this might affect you personally.

**The biggest impact that you can have on this application is by talking about your own lived experience – and how this quarry could impact the lives of you and your families for years to come.**

## In the meantime, please feel free to:

- Review the new and revised documents provided by Cemex – using the links provided on page 2.
- Look out for more guidance from HPC and Hamble Peninsular Residents Group in the coming weeks.
- Keep up to date by scanning our HPC Facebook and Instagram feeds, the noticeboards throughout the village, and our website.

We will continue to provide more information and updates as we learn more.

## HOW TO RESPOND

**The public consultation deadline is Friday 15 December 2023**

### Send your comments to:

**Online:** <https://bit.ly/3QNTb49>

**Email:** [planning@hants.gov.uk](mailto:planning@hants.gov.uk)

**Write to:** Hampshire County Council – Strategic Planning, Economy, Transport & Environment Department, Elizabeth II Court West, The Castle, Winchester, SO23 8UD. **(Please include your address)**

## HAMBLE PENINSULAR RESIDENTS GROUP URGE YOU TO PUT PEN TO PAPER AGAIN

We know it feels like an endless task, which it is and always will be with Persimmon Homes as the landowner, but we need you to reiterate your concerns to Hampshire County Council (HCC) by 15 December.

It is absolutely vital that we get maximum responses again to highlight frustration. Anyone can write and show support for the village – your friends, family, team-mates, work colleagues.

The new information from Cemex is quite technical and complex in certain areas. We are working with the Parish Council and consultants to delve into the detail to counter what has been presented. However, this new information does not change the facts.

The proposal is still to put a quarry in the heart of the village. It is still within unacceptable proximity to schools, residential housing, and over 250 businesses. We have done a survey of all Cemex UK quarries, and none are remotely comparable. Therefore, they have zero experience of managing such development.

All your concerns as far as compromised air quality, flooding, traffic, safety of children, wildlife, and loss of recreational amenity, are still relevant – none of their documents solve any of the concerns. What is vital is that you relate all these concerns to personal lived experience. Do you have friends and family who suffer with respiratory issues? What happens when there is a traffic block on Hamble Lane? How long have you been stuck in traffic? Have you witnessed the safety of pedestrians and school kids being threatened on Hamble Lane? If you live on Satchell Lane what happens to the road and your garden when we get downpours? Why do you use the Airfield – what do you get out of it?

We have spent the summer joining dots: lobbying many of the statutory consultees and drawing their attention to relevant information; empowering HCC Councillors with knowledge of our concerns; submitting Freedom of Information requests around much of the decision making to highlight the lack of assessment process.

This is your time to really show frustration and concern. Keep up to date on Facebook 'Hamble Against Development'.

Email – [hamblepeninsularresidents@gmail.com](mailto:hamblepeninsularresidents@gmail.com)





## WE'RE LOOKING FOR A NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

**Closing Date for Applications: 3 December 2023**

Following Sarah Lehneis' departure, the Council has a vacancy. If you are interested in the role and would like to contribute to the decisions made by the Council on behalf of Hamble residents, please apply on or before 3 December.

### Why become a Parish Councillor?

If you've never been to a parish council meeting, you may assume that parish councillors are a group of (probably older) people who meet now and then in a draughty village hall. Not so. Hamble Parish Council comprises a mix of councillors from different backgrounds, with different interests and of different ages, all committed to volunteering their time to making Hamble a better place to live and work. When something 'big' has or is about to happen, people in the community tend to turn to the Parish Council for support and guidance. One such example of this is the ongoing planning application for gravel extraction at Hamble Airfield. As a parish councillor, you become someone to whom your community will look for help, guidance, and support; a community leader with the ability to influence decisions for the benefit of the people you serve. Seeing your community change for the better because of decisions you have helped to make will give you a sense of achievement and pride. You can find out more about our commitment to Hamble here: <https://bit.ly/3PqezcN>



### Parish Duties

Hamble Parish Council has 12 councillors. The duties and functions of a Parish Council are many and varied, so being a parish councillor is an interesting position to hold. We meet once a month as a full Council (except August) and meetings may last up to 2.5 hours, depending upon the agenda and the items to be discussed. In addition to the full Council meeting, there is also a Planning Committee that meets once a month and an Asset Management Committee that meets every second month. You are not expected to be involved in all committees and there are also other areas of responsibility in which you might want to play a role — such as allotments, communications, the dinghy park, human resources (our team), finance and the budget or our local footpaths. There is also an Annual Parish

meeting to which all village residents are invited. All meetings of the Council are advertised on the council notice boards, website, and Facebook social media page. Residents can bring to the attention of the Parish Council anything that concerns them, either directly, through a councillor, or through the Clerk. If matters raised are not the responsibility of the Parish Council, the Clerk can bring them to the attention of the proper authority.

### As a parish councillor, how much time would I need to commit to Council business?

In addition to the regular meetings, some councillors have specific duties as chairs of committees or working groups, requiring them to attend other meetings to represent the council (e.g., acting as a representative on an outside body, or helping to develop a new project for the community). This could take anywhere between 3 and 10 hours per month, depending on how involved you'd like to be.



### How can I apply?

Visit <https://bit.ly/49MGfnL> to find out more, and to download a copy of the application form.

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## RANGER'S REMARKS

Hello again Hamble habitants.

I've been prescribed some anti-gloating cream... I can't wait to rub it in.

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! That's right, the festive season is fast approaching, so let's warm up with these facts about Christmas and kickstart the festivities!

Who doesn't love Christmas? It's a time filled with excitement, magical stories, sparkling lights, and family reunions.

If you like traditions, then you probably very much enjoy Christmas because it's full of them. These include decorating the Christmas tree, a tradition which was first recorded back in the 16th Century in Germany. Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband, was later credited with popularising the tradition in Britain.

The traditional English Christmas dinner includes roast turkey, roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding, carrots, brussels sprouts, cranberry sauce, and gravy.

Mince pies are a traditional Christmas food in England, dating back to the 13th Century. They originally contained meat, but nowadays are usually made with fruit or vegetables.

Another traditional English Christmas food is plum pudding, also known as Christmas pudding. It is made with dried fruit, suet (beef fat), spices, and alcohol, and is often served with brandy butter or custard sauce.

The custom of decorating houses with evergreens at Christmas began in Tudor times (16th Century). Evergreens were symbols of hope and life during the dark winter months.

On Christmas Day in Japan, people eat KFC. This unusual tradition dates back to 1974 when a KFC in Japan received a strange request for someone to dress up as Santa Claus and deliver buckets of fried chicken to a nearby Christmas party. This became a hit and prompted KFC to launch its first Christmas campaign in 1974. Orders have to be booked two months in

advance and queues stretch out to the street around Christmastime!

Next on my list of fun facts about Christmas is all about the historic St Nicholas. The inspiration for the famous Santa Claus figure originated from the generous Christian bishop, St Nicholas.

During his life, St Nicholas helped the poor and needy by giving money to those in need, saving falsely accused prisoners, and nursing the sick. Following his death, stories about his kindness inspired the jolly and bubbly character of Santa Claus that we know today.

While we usually picture Santa Claus as a round, jolly, bearded man dressed in a big red suit, he hasn't always looked like this. The original Santa Claus was thin and spooky, dressed in Norse huntsman's animal skin. The original depiction was created by Civil War cartoonist Thomas Nast.

It wasn't until the 1920s when the Coca-Cola Company began Christmas advertising and featured the iconic image of the Santa Claus we know and love today.

And finally, during NASA's Gemini 6A space flight on 16 December 1965, Jingle Bells broke a Guinness World Record for being the first song played in space.

The astronauts on the flight played a joke on Mission Control stating that they could see an "object travelling at a low trajectory from north to south", followed by a rendition of the famous Christmas song.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas.

**Mark Cowley, Estates Ranger**

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## PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE OVER CHRISTMAS

The Parish Office will be closed from noon on 22 December and will reopen in the New Year on 2 January 2024.

Thanks for your support while the Parish team take a break over the holidays. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas!



## HAMBLE'S ADVENT CALENDAR BECOMES A CHRISTMAS TRAIL FOR 2023

This year we are going to try something slightly different. Instead of an advent calendar we are going to coordinate a Christmas Trail!

We would like as many homes and businesses as possible to decorate their gardens, windows, and homes, and be part of the Trail. The event will run from Monday 18 December until Christmas Eve.

To take part in the Christmas Trail and be included on our map, please drop Hamble's Living Advent Calendar a message via Facebook.

Anyone wanting to do a big reveal or something special can book in a specific date and time which we will then include on our map. There will be a winner chosen based on a photo vote during the week.

For more information, or to take part, visit our Facebook page:  
<https://bit.ly/3sWdCnk>



## CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH AT THE PRIORY CENTRE, ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

Our wonderful team of volunteers is ready and waiting to provide a wonderful Christmas Day Lunch.

We have a number of seats at our Christmas lunch table which we would love to share with you. We invite you to come and join us and enjoy good company, friendly faces, and a lunch of traditional Christmas fare.

There is easy access for all, with no steps and everything on one level. Places are restricted in number so pre-booking is essential. Transport to and from the Priory Centre can be provided on request.

Please join us – we would love to see you!

For further information, please contact Kay on 07866 097789, 023 80 454745 or [kay007@ntlworld.com](mailto:kay007@ntlworld.com).







## HAMBLE FLOWER CLUB

Christmas is just around the corner, and we have a treat lined up for you.

Our December open meeting is a demonstration by Kent demonstrator and 2019 Flower Arranger of the Year Robin White thrilling us with his 'Floral Festivities'.

It's always a very enjoyable afternoon with the chance to win one of his designs in the raffle. And with mince pies, warm mulled wine, or tea/ coffee included in your ticket price, it's great value for money.

Priced at only £15 per person, why not add us to your Christmas festivities? Tickets are selling fast. Contact Jeanette Smart on 07813 362997 for more details.



## CHRISTMAS AT ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, HAMBLE



Since the beginning of November, we have been inundated with ads from all the major supermarkets on TV and in the newspapers, encouraging us to do our Christmas food shopping with them. Yet not one has mentioned the very reason that we celebrate Christmas – the birth of the baby Jesus in a stable in Bethlehem.

Why not come along to one or more of the Christmas services at St. Andrew's? The services are as follows:

- Sunday 17 December at 6pm: a carol service followed by wine, soft drinks, and mince pies for all.
- Christmas Eve at 10am: a said Eucharist
- Christmas Eve at 4pm: a Crib service especially for children and their adults, with distribution of Christingles
- Christmas Eve at 11.30pm: the Midnight Eucharist with congregational carols
- Christmas Day at 10.30am: a joyful service celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ

You will all be very welcome, and we look forward to seeing you then.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.





## MERCURY LIBRARY & HUB

The poppy display in our window looks fabulous – 500 poppies hand knitted by volunteers and friends, with the purple poppies representing the animals lost during conflict. A very well done to everyone involved – as always, it was a great team effort. Keep an eye on the window as our display volunteers change it regularly and work really hard to make each new display beautiful and interesting.



The quilling group goes from strength to strength. Following on from Chloe and Darcy's success at the National Quilling Guild competition, our recent window display has been featured on the back page of the national magazine, Quilling Today! This is another feather in the group's cap and many thanks to Irene, our lovely teacher. If you fancy having a try at this craft, the group meets every Monday at 10am, and you are welcome to join us.

On 15 November, the Blue Lamp Trust gave a very successful and well received talk on Cyber Crime, something all of us are at risk of. Many thanks to them for coming along.

Our children's craft sessions are always popular, so we have decided to run a special Christmas session on 22 December from 2pm to 4pm. This is a free event and open to children of all ages so please bring your little ones along. There will be a variety of crafts for them to do, and each child will be able to make a lovely Christmas tree bauble to take home.

There is always a warm welcome at The Hub so please come along and join us.

## HAMBLE LADIES GROUP

Another packed house for our last meeting of the year before Christmas. We were lucky enough to have the folk group 'Allsorts' come along to entertain us with music and song. We were given a song sheet so that we could join in with the choruses which we enjoyed, as well as singing along to some of the songs we knew.

Songs included in their repertoire were: Here's a Health to the Country, Bad Moon Rising, A World of our Own, Wild Mountain Thyme, Keep Hauling, Everywhere, The Gypsy Rover, and Country Road. A very happy and fun afternoon.

On 12 December we meet at The Beach Hut Cafe for our Christmas lunch. Time for arrival no earlier than 12.45pm for 1pm please.

The Beach Hut Café has done us proud over the years we have been going there and no doubt we will all have a lovely time. Good food, good venue, good company, and maybe a drink or two!

Our first meeting in the New Year is on Tuesday 9 January (2pm in the Priory Centre). This will be our AGM and a talk on 'Wrecks of the River Hamble' by Valerie Archibald, one of our longstanding members.

I hope it is not too early to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and to say thank you for supporting us once again this year.

Bobby Conduit  
023 80 453626

## HOCKEY FOR ALL AGES!

Looking to become part of a fun, energetic team sport in Hamble?



Why not enjoy a free trial at Hamble Hockey Club? Based at Hamble Secondary School, we have players ranging from 6–70 years young! We welcome all levels and abilities, even if you're new to the sport or haven't played since school.

Send Hamble Hockey club an email to [hamblehockey@gmail.com](mailto:hamblehockey@gmail.com) if you are interested or head to <https://bit.ly/3R92mNM> to learn more.



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## HAMBLE PRIMARY'S CLEAN AIR CAMPAIGN

Hamble Primary School is proud to be one of the first schools in the borough to be taking part in the 'Clean Air Aware' initiative. This is run by Eastleigh Borough Council and Sustrans, with the aim of making children and their families more aware of air pollution and what we can do to reduce it.



The school's Eco-Committee has been working with a member of the Sustrans team to set up test tubes that collect the particulate matter at different locations around the school. They are waiting for the results to return from the laboratory which will show the extent of air pollution around the school grounds, from the main entrance on Hamble Lane to the woodland area of the field.



They also learnt all about lichen and how the colour and type of lichen on trees and branches can be an indicator of the air quality in that area.

This work links tightly with one of the school's Curriculum threads: environment and sustainability, and the Eco-Committee is looking forward to sharing their findings and ideas with the local community.

## HAMBLE CLUB FC ON THE TROPHY TRAIL!

Hamble Club FC has made the 3rd round proper of the FA Vase following a convincing 5-2 win at The Abbey on 11 November against Corsham, who were the 4th favourites to lift the trophy at Wembley.

We will be travelling to Hilltop FC on 2 December and hope to get through to the last 32 of the competition.

Hamble Club FC is still in 5 cup competitions and are currently mid-table in the Wessex Premier League.

Our inclusive section is also growing ready for next season, with Hampshire's only Cerebral Palsy team being introduced to the youth section of the club.

## HAMBLE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

So far this autumn we have helped the Hamble Parish estates team to tidy up the waterfront by weeding the flower beds and planting bulbs for next year. We are also renovating the seating which is heavily used during the summer.



Our efforts to help Eastleigh Borough Council staff with the removal of scrub from the Common are making rapid progress thanks to exceptional turnouts and contingents from local companies, notably Suez and Atkins.

Our annual programme of tasks is displayed on our website and noticeboards 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 currently meet at the Hamble Point car park while the School Lane car park is unavailable.

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

There is a huge amount going on at the club off the pitch too, with maintenance and improvements to the facilities.

In the coming months the club will start to look for sponsors for the 24/25 season to continue our growth.

We are always looking for club volunteers, whether that be on match days or with help behind the scenes, so please get in touch if interested.

If you would like to become a club sponsor, or for further information on Hamble Club FC please contact [steve.harris@hcyfc.co.uk](mailto:steve.harris@hcyfc.co.uk).





## HAMBLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society's last meeting about 'Old Newspaper Reports of Hamble' was very successful and enjoyable. The highlight of the evening was a talk by Hamble policeman, Ray Smout, who helped solve the major crime at the Manor Hotel that led to the longest fraud trial in British history. Ray spoke about his recollections of this major event.



The November meeting also saw the launch of the Society's new booklet, which is a must-read for anyone with a connection with Hamble and is interested in its history. This new booklet is filled with astonishing and remarkable newspaper reports of happenings involving the village and river over the years. It includes reports of smuggling, privateers taking its boats, a shooting at the Victory Inn and the above-mentioned local policeman solving a major crime at the Manor Hotel. There are further reports of a farm arsonist execution, fishermen's deaths, and first woman's seaplane flight, plus notable village events such as a bull fight on the Quay, novelty events at regattas and many more.

Why not send a copy to a relative or friend when contacting them over the Christmas period? Over the years people have found sending one of the booklets produced by the History Society with a Christmas card to be a welcome gift. It is available from the Post Office at Coronation Parade for just £4.

Other booklets available at the Post Office are 'Hamble in the Past', 'Hamble River - A Glimpse from the Past', 'Boats of the Hamble River', 'Hamble Pubs', 'Aviation at Hamble', 'Hamble Pictures from the Past' and 'Hamble River Sailing Club 1919-2019'.

If you would like more information about the Society, please contact the Secretary, Margaret Greenfield on 023 8045 4373.

## ALL ABOUT DARK-BELLIED BRENT GEESE

Here on the Solent, we are lucky to have 10% of the world's population of dark-bellied brent geese arriving on our shores every winter – that's around 25,000 birds. Dark-bellied brent geese are our smallest goose, only a little bigger than a mallard, and they fly 3,000 miles to get to the Solent all the way from arctic Siberia.

They are very social birds that gather in large flocks. They form strong bonds, and tend to migrate in family groups, sticking together year on year. They have a grey-brown back, and a black neck, head and bill, with just a small white lacy patch on the neck.

Brent geese eat seagrass, and you'll see them 'bottoms-up' in the water feeding on this tasty plant just like a duck.

As they fly overhead, you can hear them chattering away to each other, making their glorious guttural crrrronk call. Unlike other geese, they don't fly in V-formations:



Photo credit: Charlotte Goswell

instead, you'll see streams of them ribboning across the sky.

It's vital that these special birds get as much time to feed and rest as possible if they are to survive the winter and eventually make the migration back to their arctic breeding grounds. The easiest way to help them is to follow the Bird Aware Solent coastal code: look out for birds, move away if birds become alert, keep dogs alongside and follow requests on signs.

Find out more about the Solent's birdlife and how to protect it by visiting the Bird Aware Solent website: [www.birdaware.org/solent](http://www.birdaware.org/solent)



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## HAMBLE PLAYERS



Not long now until the cast of Cinderella strut their stuff upon the stage in the Memorial Hall. Even if you haven't purchased your tickets yet, they can sometimes become available at the last minute due to illness or unavoidable issues. You never know your luck. Please call the Box Office on 02380 440660. It's always worth a call.

'The Exorcism' by Don Taylor is the first play to be performed in the New Year, directed by Ollie Barnet. This is a ghost story that makes you think rather than being out-and-out scared. A reading of this play took place earlier in November, but auditions are on 18 December at 7pm in the Rear Hall of Hamble Memorial Hall. Do come along to register an interest even if you only wish to help backstage.

Our new website [www.hambleplayers.co.uk](http://www.hambleplayers.co.uk) is full of information should you wish to contact us or find out more. There will be an opportunity on 10 January 2024 at 7.30pm to come to our new members evening in the Main Hall of Hamble Memorial Hall. This will be

a chance to meet members and have a chat over a cuppa. If acting is not your 'bag' but you enjoy painting scenery, making costumes, set building, or even making the teas, Hamble Players could be your new hobby.

## SHOEBOXES AT THE PRIORY CENTRE, ST. ANDREW'S

Our ladies at The Priory Centre, St. Andrew's worked very hard filling 107 shoe boxes to be sent by Rotary to Rotary clubs for distribution to orphanages and schools in Moldova, Monte Negro, Romania, Poland and the Ukraine, just in time for Christmas. The boxes are filled with gifts for the children including colouring books and pencils, small toys, toiletries, and knitted hats and scarves – all donated by local people. On behalf of the children, many thanks to you all.

You can hire the Priory Centre for your children's birthday party or any other event. Please contact Ian Stephens on 02380 454181 for further information, or email [stephenscoachman@btinternet.com](mailto:stephenscoachman@btinternet.com).

## BECAUSE NOT ALL YORKSHIRE PUDDINGS ARE CREATED EQUAL!

Hand raised Yorkshire puddings served with traditional roast sirloin of beef or succulent turkey breast\*, duck fat roasted potatoes, seasonal vegetables and lashings of gravy each and every Sunday lunchtime from Noon.

\*Turkey served Sundays 3rd - 24th December

Table reservations advised

The Gaff Rigger, Mercury Yacht Harbour, Satchell Lane, Hamble. SO31 4HQ.  
t: 02380 455595 w: [www.gaffrigger.co.uk](http://www.gaffrigger.co.uk)







# UPCOMING DATES




**Hamble**

Free guided walks to spend time in nature in a safe and friendly environment.

**10.30 - 11.30am**

**Wednesday 20 December**

**Wednesday 24 January**

**Wednesday 28 February**

Meet: The Mercury Hub, High Street, Hamble

Book online:  
[itchenvally.co.uk/whats-on](http://itchenvally.co.uk/whats-on)

For more info email  
[melanie.vincent@eastleigh.gov.uk](mailto:melanie.vincent@eastleigh.gov.uk)

**FREE event**



## Peter Rabbit Festive Adventure 25 November – 1 January

At Royal Victoria Country Park.

## Cinderella Hamble Players 5 – 10 December

At Hamble Memorial Hall.  
<https://bit.ly/46rJyxU>

## Santa Paws Run 10 December 10am

At Royal Victoria Country Park.  
£5 per dog.

## Last Day of Term 15 December

## Carol Concert 16 December 7pm – 8.30pm



At Royal Victoria Country Park.  
£6 per person.

## Hamble Christmas Trail 18 – 24 December

## Walk and Talk 20 December 10.30am

Meet at The Mercury Library.

## Christmas Quiz Night 20 December 6pm – 10pm

At River Rat Bar & Kitchen.

## Christmas Craft Session 22 December 2pm – 4pm

At The Mercury Hub

## Carols in the Square 24 December 6pm – 7pm



## Upcoming Parish Council Meetings

### Asset Management Committee

Monday 4 December at 7pm  
At Roy Underdown Pavilion.

### Full Council

Monday 11 December at 7pm  
Monday 8 January at 7pm  
At Roy Underdown Pavilion.

### Planning Committee

Monday 22 January at 7pm  
At Roy Underdown Pavilion.

## Church Services at St. Andrew's Over Christmas

### Carol Service

17 December  
6pm

### Said Eucharist

24 December  
10am

**Crib Service with  
Christingle  
24 December  
4pm**

**Midnight  
Eucharist  
24 December  
11.30pm**

**Christmas Day  
Service  
25 December  
10.30am**

