



Minnie (Clare Hughes)

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!

Another month has flown by, the evenings are getting lighter, and Spring feels like it may finally be on its way. It's that time of year when there's a sense of renewal and optimism in the air; a time for new starts and looking forward – and it is in this spirit that the Parish Council has been making plans for the year ahead.

We are delighted to have resumed work on the Mount Pleasant development project that has been ongoing for some years. For those of you who digest these newsletters from cover-to-cover, you may recall that a lot of planning and costing work was completed by the Council team back in 2019 before Covid derailed progress. Four years on, and the local landscape has changed (figuratively if not literally) and so we are starting the project anew – using the previous work as a reference point. Funds are limited, so we are looking to split the project into two phases – an initial piece of work to replace the play area at Mount Pleasant, and then a larger, longer-term project to develop the area as a whole. We will be seeking grants and other financial support to move this forward. A working group has been formed, led by Cllr Tony Moody, and we'll be presenting some initial options to the community in due course. Watch this space.

If the Mount Pleasant project is something with which you would like to become involved, you may wish to consider running as a candidate for Parish Councillor. Elections are held every 4 years and are next due in May 2024 – which means that the Parish Council could look very different later this year! The minimum time commitment is around 4 hours a month, although realistically you would need to budget

8+ hours if you wish to get involved in the committees that do much of the groundwork that leads to the recommendations presented to Council. We'll publish further details nearer the time, but if this is something that interests you, please get in touch with one of the current Councillors or attend our next Council meeting on 11 March to find out more.

March is budget time, and the Parish precept will increase by £7.19 this year to cover general inflationary increases in costs. There will also be an increase in some of our Fees and Charges, including parking charges for longer stays at the Foreshore Car Park. Full details are on page 3 of the newsletter.

The only blight on the horizon remains the Hamble Airfield planning application, which rumbles interminably on. We have been unofficially advised that March is now looking unlikely for the Regulatory Committee meeting at which the application will be decided. There are no other updates to share, other than to say that the Fire Brigade and Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner have now submitted objections/concerns to Hampshire County Council regarding the road network capacity in an emergency – this following the recent fire to the rear of the Memorial Hall. Some great work was done by the Hamble Peninsular Residents Group in bringing these issues to their attention.

**Chris Jones,**  
Chair

### PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS



## THANK YOU TO COUNCILLOR SHEELAGH COHEN

In December, we said goodbye to one of our longest-standing members of the Parish Council – Councillor Sheelagh Cohen.

Sheelagh was co-opted onto the Council in 2014, having had a long and successful career in the civil service. The Council soon set about tapping into her experience. When I was elected Chair in 2016 it came as no surprise that I nominated her as my Vice Chair. Her advice and guidance proved invaluable, although this period was short lived as I became ill within a year. Sheelagh stepped up and took the Chair, firstly in my absence before being elected for the following two terms.

During this time, the Council went through a period of significant change, moving from the whole council taking all the decisions to a committee-driven system. Given Sheelagh's experience, it was inevitable that she would chair the personnel working group, whilst also being elected as Vice Chair of the Council until 2019. During this period the restructuring of the elected council led to the reorganisation of the staff structure. We of course lent on Sheelagh's depth of experience to guide us through this process.

Sheelagh is a passionate parishioner and the various large scale planning applications along with the Hamble Airfield quarrying application have been red lines for her. Sheelagh had long said she would not contest the 2024 elections, so it came as no surprise when she resigned late last year. She will be missed for her great contribution to the life of the village and her work on the Council and we wish her well for the future.

**Simon Hand** – Councillor, Chair 2016-2023

## DONATE EASTER EGGS

This Easter, if you have a few eggs to spare or would like to offset some of your chocolate expenditure with something altogether more beneficial, please consider donating to Hound Food Bank. While they will accept a host of groceries, a chocolate egg or two would not go amiss either. You can find a list of their 'most wanted' groceries on their Facebook page: search Hound Basics Food Bank.

## MOUNT PLEASANT PROJECT

Following delays caused firstly by Covid, and then the Hamble Airfield planning application, the Parish Council is delighted to be in a position to revive the Mount Pleasant development project.

Over the coming months, the Mount Pleasant working group will produce both a short and longer-term plan for the development of the play area, changing rooms, and green space at Mount Pleasant, with our first priority being the replacement of the play equipment. Some of this development will be contingent upon sourcing additional funding.

This project would benefit greatly from the involvement of local residents, so if you have some time to spare and would like to be part of the working group, please get in touch with Helen, the Parish Clerk. Her email is: [clerk@hambleparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hambleparishcouncil.gov.uk).

We will be consulting with the village on the various options for this space in due course, but if you have any questions or ideas in the meantime, please do get in touch.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO HAMBLE?

It's an election year, and in May 2024 local elections will be held to decide who will sit on the Parish Council for the next 4 years.

If you have some time to spare (typically around 4 – 10 hours per month) and would like to contribute to the decisions made by the Council on behalf of Hamble residents, why not consider running? Seeing your community change for the better because of decisions you have helped to make will give you a sense of achievement and pride.

We'll be providing further details on how to put yourself forward for election over the next few weeks, but if you have any queries in the meantime, please contact Helen the Clerk, email [clerk@hambleparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hambleparishcouncil.gov.uk). We would also encourage potential candidates to consider attending our next Full Council meeting on 11 March (7pm at Roy Underdown Pavilion) to learn a little more about the decisions Council takes and the decision-making process.



## HAMBLE PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET, 2024/25

At December's Full Council meeting, a 5% increase in the Precept for 2024/25 was agreed, resulting in an income for the Parish of £292,823.26.

This takes the Parish charge to £151.08 for 2024/25, an increase from £143.89 the previous year.

We have also reviewed some of our Fees and Charges for the use of Parish assets, including the charges for the Foreshore Car Park, and you can view these on our website here: <https://bit.ly/3UPE11L>. These areas are currently the only opportunity that the Parish has to generate income as there are no developers' contributions available to us. We try wherever possible to limit these charges to mainly affect visitors to the village (rather than residents) and will continue to review and adjust them as we go through the year.



In previous years, we have been able to spend some of our monies from reserves to invest in the Parish and make improvements such as the benches on the Foreshore. However, this year the money available to us is much more limited. We intend to make some improvements to the play area in Mount Pleasant as this is in desperate need of renovation, using some monies from the Borough that had been set aside. We are also conscious that the Pavilion building is in need of attention.

We would like to do more community engagement with residents over the next few months to try to understand what investments you would like to see, but given this is an election year, we may soon have some new Councillors with new ideas. With this in mind, we will wait until after May to firm up our plans for the coming year.

## CAR PARKING CHARGES

2023: £1 for each hour (subject to variable seasonal increases)

2024: Hourly Parking Charges

1 Hour	£1
2 Hours	£2.50
3 Hours	£3.50
4 Hours	£4.50
5 Hours+	£12

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CONSULTATION

Hampshire County Council (HCC) is currently undertaking a public consultation, asking for people's views on the future of some local services. They are considering a number of options to help the Authority meet a £132 million budget shortfall by April 2025.

There are 13 change proposals within this consultation, which cover adult social care charges, grant schemes, highways maintenance, homelessness support services, Household Waste Recycling Centres, library stock, passenger transport (such as Dial-a-Ride), rural countryside parking, school crossing patrols, and street lighting.

The proposed budgetary cuts most relevant to Hamble residents include the removal of the school crossing patrol at Portsmouth Road in Lowford, the removal of funding for community transport services, the removal of bus routes that are not commercially viable, and the reduction of highways maintenance activities, including larger-scale structural repairs, surface treatments on roads, and drainage improvements. The latter point may be of particular relevance to Hamble Lane should the quarrying application at Hamble Airfield be approved.

## HAVE YOUR SAY

- Read full details about the consultation here: <https://bit.ly/4b95IZi>
- Give your feedback on the consultation here: <https://bit.ly/49GaD2e>



Deadline for responses: 31 March 2024

## GRANTS PROVIDED DURING 2023/24

The grant budget for 2023/24 was £4,500, of which 4 payments (totalling £1,690) have been approved:

Citizens Advice Bureau – £500

Hamble Conservation Volunteers – £500

Wetwheels – £500

Mercury Area Residents Association (MARA) – £190



## RANGER'S REMARKS

Hello Hamble inhabitants.

I used to enjoy making those little fizzy sweets, but then I forgot how to do it... so had to go on a Refreshers course!



We all enjoy living in Hamble, especially with such a beautiful river on our doorstep. So, hands up who wants to know a bit more about this iconic river? Wow, nearly all of you! That's brilliant – what a fantastically inquisitive village we have!

The River Hamble rises near Bishop's Waltham and flows for around 6.3 miles through Botley, Bursledon, and Lower Swanwick before entering Southampton Water between Hamble Common and Warsash. The Hamble is tidal for about half its length and is navigable below Botley. From the medieval period to the present, it has been a major ship and boat-building area. Formerly used as an aircraft training centre during the Second World War, Hamble is now a yachting hub, drawing in people from around the world for races, events, and celebrations. After Cowes on the Isle of Wight, Hamble is considered to be one of the most important yachting destinations in the UK.

In the 14th century Hamble was a more important trading centre than Portsmouth with great ships being built in the marinas including The Elephant, Nelson's flagship in the battle of Copenhagen which was captained by Jane Austen's brother. It is also a nationally and internationally important site for nature conservation with parts of its wider estuarine system having mud flats, salt marshes, reed beds, lagoons, and coastal grazing marshes.

It is not only above the surface of this busy waterway that exciting things happen. Below the surface of the estuary there is a fantastic project underway to restore the once thriving oyster industry that has drastically declined over the last 30 years or so. This decline is due to fishing pressures, disease, and invasive species. As part of the Solent Seascape Project, the Blue Marine Foundation is working with local authorities, partners and the wider public to bring oysters back to the Hamble. To start this exciting process, they needed to create a new oyster reef, so the oysters have something to settle on.

This reef is made up of a mixture of shell and gravel also known as cultch and in order to create a whole new reef, you need a lot of it – around 450 tonnes to be precise. On top of this new reef will be added around 30,000 juvenile native oysters sourced from Wales and Cornwall. They will then be constantly monitored to see how well they're doing. This project is a great step towards nature conservation of the environment, which in turn will help the river's biodiversity and improve the water quality of the Hamble. More information on the oyster restoration project along with others can be found here: <https://bit.ly/48tnPXf>

**Mark Cowley**, Estates Ranger



## HAVE YOUR SAY ON BIODIVERSITY

Eastleigh Borough Council is giving local residents and organisations the opportunity to have their say on a far-reaching strategy aimed at boosting biodiversity in Eastleigh Borough. This strategy sets out the approach for the protection, maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity and our natural environment over the next ten years. Complete the survey here before 22 March <https://bit.ly/3uuNUHD>



## HELP MAP AMPHIBIAN BREEDING ACTIVITY ACROSS THE UK

The PondNet Spawn Survey maps the sightings of Common Frog and Common Toad spawn across the country to better understand how amphibians use different types of waterbodies to breed.



Freshwater Habitats Trust runs the PondNet Spawn survey from December to May. With your help, they can collect important data on the location of breeding frogs and toads. To take part, record Common Frog or Common Toad spawn spotted in garden ponds or any ponds, ditches or puddles you come across in your adventures in the countryside and report them here: <https://bit.ly/42Q3x9l>.



## HAMBLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



Henry V's Grace Dieu, on the Hamble River.

At the Society's last meeting, local historian Cheryl Butler gave a fascinating talk about the 'Historic Ships of Southampton'. There were many new members and visitors at this meeting, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the talk.

Cheryl's talk highlighted some of the historic ferries, warships, liners, and yachts that were notable in the port's development and history. She started by explaining that in Roman times the port was at Clausentum, a military port located in the Bitterne Park area. During the Norman period wine was bought from France, and Southampton was a premier port until the 1500s.

Of course, Henry V's great ships such as the 'Grace Dieu' and the 'Holy Ghost' were mentioned; these were kept on the Hamble River for many years. The 'Speedwell' that was to take the Pilgrims to America with the 'Mayflower' was another example of little-known important vessels Cheryl included in her talk.

The introduction of steamships at the beginning of the 1820s led to the docks greatly developing, with the 'Prince of Coburg' being the first to operate out of Southampton. Naturally, liners such as the 'Titanic', 'Queen Mary' and 'Canberra' were included, as well as the lesser known 'Habana' that evacuated children from the Spanish Civil War to Southampton. Another excellent and professional talk by Cheryl.

The society's next meeting will be on Thursday 4 April at 7.30pm, about the 'Amazing Stories of Hamble Regattas'. If you would like more information about the society please contact our secretary, Margaret Greenfield: 023 8045 4373.

## HAMBLE PLAYERS

Rehearsals are going well for 'The Exorcism' by Don Taylor, which will be performed from Tuesday 19 until Saturday 23 March, directed by Ollie Barnet. Tickets are now available and can be purchased either by phoning the Box Office on 02380 440660 or via [www.ticketsource.co.uk/hambleplayers](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/hambleplayers). As usual we have our excellent raffle, and the bar sells drinks at very reasonable prices.

The play 'Dirty Dusting' has already been cast, prior to the performances in July. However, we have another play to be performed in September called 'Boeing Boeing.' As the name suggests it's all about an airline and the shenanigans of the crew in their spare time! A reading of this play will take place in the Rear Hall of Hamble Memorial Hall on Thursday 14 March at 7pm, followed by the auditions two weeks later on Thursday 28 March – same time, same place. Lots of fun parts. All welcome.

Importantly too, we are actively trying to recruit new members to take an interest and be trained in the use of technical equipment, in particular concerning SOUND. We have invested seriously in the last couple of years in new equipment and now is the time to pass on that knowledge. Our website will give you full contact details: [www.hambleplayers.co.uk](http://www.hambleplayers.co.uk)



## HAMBLE LADIES GROUP

Tuesday 13 February was very wet and windy, but despite the weather about 30 members turned up for the meeting and to listen to Judy Theobald talking about 'Weddings and Other Problems' which was very, very amusing and lighthearted. We have had Judy before, and she never fails to deliver a good talk.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 12 March when we have a talk on the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust.

Please come along and join us and let's hope the weather is better. 2pm in the Priory Centre in Hamble.

Bobby Conduit  
023 80 453626



## UPDATE FROM THE MERCURY HUB

Love was in the air at The Mercury Library in February, with a fantastic Valentine's window display created by the volunteers. They always come up trumps with their designs, so well done and thank you to them.



We had a great turnout for our latest coffee morning, which was in aid of Hound Food Bank; the amazing work they do to help people in our community is greatly appreciated and as always, people were incredibly generous. We raised the grand sum of £226, so thank you to all who attended. Watch this space for details of our next one.

By popular demand, we have extended our Wednesday afternoon opening hours to 2pm to 5pm. This means that we can welcome Roy back to give his free IT advice which has proved invaluable to many people. He is available from 3.30pm to 5pm. The extra time also

means that children can come and visit us after school; we love to see the little ones exploring the books and toys and just enjoying their time with us.

Our storytelling session held by Shirley on 16 February was, as always, really well attended and the children enjoyed the story "There's a Snake in My School". Thank you once again, Shirley.

On 17 February, PC Simon Peacock and two of his colleagues from Hedge End Neighbourhood policing team held a Q&A session, mainly focused on anti-social behaviour, car crime, traffic problems and scams. This was very informative, and we hope that they will be able to drop in occasionally to chat to our visitors.

If you haven't already paid us a visit, please come along. You are guaranteed a warm welcome.

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## ST ANDREW'S CHURCH



The Vernal Equinox, the first day of Spring, is on 20 March – so it won't be too long now before we can hopefully look forward to some warmer, sunnier weather.

It was really heart-warming to see so many Hamble residents and people from further afield attending the Christmas services at St. Andrew's in 2023. In particular, the Christingle service for children was very popular.

With Easter almost upon us it would be lovely to see you all again at the Easter services. Dates and times for these are as follows:

- 28 March: Maundy Thursday, 10am
- 29 March: Good Friday, 2pm
- 31 March: Easter Sunday, 10am
- First Sunday of every month, 11.30am: Lighthouse service which is produced especially for children of all ages.

It takes a lot of people working behind the scenes to run the services and various events at St Andrew's and all are unpaid volunteers.

Maintaining our lovely village church costs a lot of money and we (the volunteers) are always looking at ways to raise funds to support the maintenance of the church and its fabric.

Do you have any fund-raising ideas you would like to share? Or perhaps you would prefer to make a donation – any amount is gratefully accepted. Please contact [standrews.hamble@gmail.com](mailto:standrews.hamble@gmail.com) for more information.

Looking forward to seeing you over the Easter period and beyond.

## NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTION DEADLINES

**April: Monday 18 March**

**May: Monday 15 April**

Would you like to contribute or advertise in the newsletter? Please get in touch by emailing [danielle@smartmarketinguk.com](mailto:danielle@smartmarketinguk.com)

## HAMBLE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

Over the winter we have been considering the protection of songbirds from predators such as magpies and grey squirrels. We had been unable to find a commercially produced bird



box that met the demands of the Common, so for a number of years have been producing our own. The latest version incorporates all that we have learned through this experience. The boxes are very robust and squirrel proof and would appear to be attractive to songbirds as they are widely used – mainly for nesting but also for shelter from the elements and predators.

Our annual programme of tasks is displayed on our website and noticeboards posted around the Common. 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.

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# EASTER 2024



## EASTER TRADITIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

- In Sweden, children dress up as Easter witches and wear old clothes. Similar to our Halloween, they walk around their neighbourhoods, but trade their artwork for sweets. 
- Residents of Haux, France serve an enormous omelette on Easter Monday in the town square. They use more than 4,500 eggs and feed up to 1,000 people. 
- In Australia, there are no chocolate bunnies, as rabbits are considered pests rather than pets. This is why in 1991, Rabbit-Free Australia launched a campaign to replace the Easter bunny with the Easter bilby, a rabbit-eared bandicoot. Many companies now make chocolate bilbies for Easter, with proceeds benefiting the endangered animals. 
- "Sprinkling," a popular Easter tradition in Hungary, is observed on Easter Monday, also known as "Ducking Monday." In years past, men used to throw buckets of water at girls and women. Luckily, the tradition has evolved, and boys now only sprinkle perfume or perfumed water on girls after getting their permission to do so. 



**Time for a Cuppa**

Please come and join us!  
We'll be making Time for a Cuppa on

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024**  
**DEMENTIA COFFEE MORNING**  
Sponsored by the Fundraising Team (former Ladies Committee)

Plus, the ever popular  
**DEVERNOIS FASHION SHOW**  
[www.devernois.com](http://www.devernois.com)

Doors open at 10:30  
The Royal Southern Yacht Club, Rope Walk, Hamble  
Come and enjoy homemade cake + unlimited coffee/tea  
Raffle for Dementia UK  
Everyone welcome – ticket price £10 on the door

**PLUS stalls : Mary Fry Chocolates + Annie Bellan's cards !!**

All money raised will go towards helping families living with dementia.  
For more information on Time for a Cuppa please visit [www.timeforacuppa.org](http://www.timeforacuppa.org)

 Dementia UK  
Helping Families Live Well



## UPCOMING DATES

### Upcoming Parish Council Meetings at the Roy Underdown Pavilion

**Full Council**  
Monday 11 March  
7pm

**Planning Committee**  
Monday 25 March  
7pm

**Asset Management Committee**  
Tuesday 2 April  
7pm

**Mother's Day**  
**10 March**

**Spring Fair**  
**9 March**  
**9.30am – 2.30pm**

At Hamble Sports Complex.

**St Patrick's Day Quiz**  
**15 March**  
**6pm – 10pm**

At River Rat Bar & Kitchen.

**Spring Market**  
**24 March**  
**11am – 4pm**

At The Brickworks Museum.  
Adults £5, children go free.

### Easter Dates

**Good Friday**  
Friday 29 March

**Easter Sunday**  
Sunday 31 March

**Easter Monday**  
Monday 1 April

**Easter Half Term**  
**29 March – 12 April**

**Eastleigh Active Easter Programme**  
**3, 5, 10, 12 April**

For 5-16 years old. Tickets from £1. Book tickets: [bit.ly/3UPrNWR](http://bit.ly/3UPrNWR).

**The Brick People Bring LEGO® Bricks to The Museum**  
**3 April**  
**10am – 4pm**

At The Brickworks Museum.  
Adults £7, 5-16 Years £5, under 5s go free.  
Book tickets: [bit.ly/3wilzof](http://bit.ly/3wilzof).

**Hamble Comedy Night**  
**5 April**  
**Doors Open From 7pm**  
**Start 8pm**

At River Rat Bar & Kitchen.  
Tickets £18.