



Kestrel, Wood Anemone, Primroses and Redshank (Peter Hyde)

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

WELCOME TO YOUR LATEST NEWSLETTER!

In May 2021, I put myself forward to represent Hamble as a member of your Parish Council and was privileged to be elected to the role. Typically, Parish Councillors hold office for four years, but with the disruption of Covid, the 2020 local elections were postponed by a year. The intervening three years have flown by, but the time is now upon us again to elect your representatives for the next 4-year period.

If you have ever considered putting yourself forward to represent your local community on the Parish Council, this is your opportunity. The role requires a time commitment of at least 5 hours a month, and potentially more, depending on how much you want to get involved. Importantly you would be joining a team and should enjoy working with other people – including other Councillors, the staff team, residents, and other organisations.

The likelihood is that the coming months will be dominated by the ongoing Hamble Airfield planning application, although we also have some exciting projects on the horizon – not least the redevelopment of Mount Pleasant, if funding can be found.

Notice of Election

We are expecting notification of the election from Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC) on Tuesday 26 March 2024. This means that, should you wish to be nominated, **you will need to register your nomination by 4pm on Friday 5 April 2024**. Information regarding the election will be displayed on EBC's website and you can find full details on page 2 of this newsletter.

Nomination

If you wish to stand for election, you must submit a nomination paper which has been signed by two electors – a Proposer and a Seconder. Nomination papers and guidance are available from the Electoral Commission's website.



You can download these papers here: <https://bit.ly/3x3vFd8>.

Once complete, your nomination papers **must be delivered by hand to reception at Eastleigh House (EBC)**. When formally submitting your nomination papers, EBC is requesting that you make an appointment between 10am and 4pm from 26 March – 5 April (excluding bank holidays and weekends).

Elections

Where an election is contested, a poll will be held between 7am and 10pm on 2 May 2024 at which Hamble residents can vote on who they would like to represent them for the next 4 years.

If the number of valid nominated candidates is the same as there are seats on the Council, these individuals automatically become Councillors without the need for an election. An unopposed candidate will take office immediately after they have been declared to be elected provided they sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

If you would like to play an active role in making Hamble a fantastic place to live, work, and visit please read the information provided by EBC, and contact Helen our Clerk for further details.

Whilst writing, I have **a brief update on the Hamble Airfield quarrying application**. It has now been confirmed that the earliest date at which the application will be considered by the Regulatory Committee will be May 2024. The reason given for the delay by Hampshire County Council (HCC) is that we are now in the pre-election period. We are in the process of writing to HCC to express our disappointment at these unsettling long delays and the impact they are having on the village, Hamble residents and businesses, and will publish this letter on our website, noticeboards and social media once finalised.

Chris Jones,
Chair

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

COUNCIL LED NEWS

NEW TEAM MEMBER ALERT! MEET SPARKY 2.0

We're pleased to announce the arrival of Sparky 2.0 to Hamble Parish Council! Just like the original Sparky, version 2.0 is a zero emissions vehicle, helping us to reduce our carbon footprint. Additionally, the bigger model gives us the versatility to carry out larger jobs for the Hamble community.

Now that we now have a bigger electric vehicle, the original Sparky has been returned. There are plans to get a second one again at such time as the team increases and we need additional vehicles.

Give Sparky 2.0 a wave if you see him out and about!



CITIZENS ADVICE SERVICE AT THE MERCURY HUB

The Citizens Advice service which has operated out of the Mercury Hub for the last 4 years has now ceased due to the low number of users. We would like to thank the volunteers who have given their time to support our community, particularly in the period immediately following Covid.

However, the fantastic support offered by Citizens Advice Eastleigh is still just a (freephone) call away. If you need advice, call on 0808 278 7862 from 10am to 4pm, Monday to Thursday.

Citizens Advice can help with a wide range of queries, including:

- Getting help with the cost of living
- Grants and benefits to help you pay your energy bills
- Getting help with bills
- Checking if you can pay less council tax
- How to read your smart electricity meter
- Checking what benefits you can get
- Claiming compensation if your flight is delayed or cancelled

WOULD YOU LIKE TO REPRESENT HAMBLE AS A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

NOMINATION DEADLINE: 5 APRIL 2024

On Thursday 2 May 2024, there will be a Parish Council election for Hamble, if contested.

If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, now is the time at which you can put your name forward to be considered. Here's your short guide to the nomination process:

1. Read <https://bit.ly/498NqFl> which outlines the role and responsibilities of a Parish Councillor in Hamble.



2. Visit <https://bit.ly/3x3vFd8> after 26 March 2024 to download your nomination papers and access further guidance.



3. Contact Eastleigh Borough Council via the details in the link above to arrange an appointment to **hand-deliver** your nomination papers – and make sure you have both a Proposer and Seconder for your nomination.

4. Ensure your nomination papers are **delivered by hand to Eastleigh House before 4pm on Friday 5 April 2024.**

If you have any queries regarding the Parish Councillor role, or the nomination process, please contact the Clerk via email: clerk@hambleparishcouncil.gov.uk.

COUNCIL LED NEWS CONTINUED

RANGER REMARKS

Hello Hamble Habitants. I'm on a music diet, so have had to stop listening to the Jam, Bread, Hot Chocolate, and Cream.

Maintaining Hamble's green spaces to keep the village looking at its best is a never-ending cycle, with priorities and variations of work being adapted as the seasons change.

As a Council, Hamble is eager to document, enhance and protect biodiversity within the parish. In 2017, to aid in the achievement of this work, the Council produced a parish biodiversity plan, with the help of a local ecology consultancy group. This plan sets out the habitats and potential species we can support, and highlights areas in need of enhancements that will offer further opportunities for a wider range of native species to thrive.

Areas that become overgrown with bramble, ivy, and invasive species such as laurel, will affect the food source, and decrease diversity and protection for struggling species. Left alone, brambles spread vigorously (up to three inches a day!) and pruning keeps them from taking over and suffocating other plants such as bluebells and daffodils. Brambles



can also create dens that could allow rats to prosper. All cutting back work ideally needs to be completed before the start of the nesting season.

To further our commitment towards biodiversity we also invest in a bi-annual tree inspection survey conducted by an experienced and qualified professional arboriculturist. Undertaking regular tree surveys is an important strategy in protecting the UK's native trees. Modern technology has made tree surveys quicker, more detailed, and more robust. This enables surveyors to quickly identify if a tree has defects or is suffering from invasive pests and pathogens so that action can be taken quickly to deal with the issue. We know a huge number of Hamble residents care deeply about nature, biodiversity, and climate change, so rest assured that your local woods and green spaces are in good hands today and for generations to come.

With the arrival of Spring's warmer weather and longer days, the grass in particular has fully awoken from its winter slumber, so the grass cutting begins in earnest around Hamble. Be sure to keep your eyes peeled and wave to the Estates team if you see us buzzing around all the green spaces keeping them smart and tidy.

Lastly, I have just finished my paintballing exam and passed with flying colours!!

Mark Cowley, Estates Ranger

COMMUNITY NEWS

HAMBLE PLAYERS

We hope you all enjoyed our first play of the year, 'The Exorcism'. Certainly, a surprising ending if you hadn't seen the play before!

Our next play 'Dirty Dusting' directed by Tim Hughes has already been cast prior to the performances from 9-13 July. Tickets are available from 1 May at www.hambleplayers.com/ticketsource, or by phoning the Box Office on 02380 440660. This hilarious play features our most experienced actresses and should have you crying with laughter. It's also a little risqué! One not to be missed!

We have a full year of entertainment for you. The next

play to be performed in September is called 'Boeing Boeing.' As the name suggests it's all about an airline and the shenanigans of the crew in their spare time! If you wish to be part of this production, please contact us via our website.

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 heavily in the last couple of years in new equipment and now is the time to pass on that knowledge. Our website www.hambleplayers.co.uk provides full contact details.

Watch out for details of this year's pantomime, The Snow Queen, in next month's newsletter.

COMMUNITY NEWS CONTINUED

HAMBLE FLOWER CLUB

As we enter our 36th year, our new programme of events starts in April. With a range of talks, practical demonstrations and workshops planned for the coming months, our members have a great variety of meetings to look forward to.

- Monday 8 April: Talk from Rosemary Legrand on 'Spring in Japan'. Members £4, Visitors £7;
- Monday 13 May: Demonstration from Carolyn Vanstone on 'Cartoon Capers'. All arrangements will be raffled off on the afternoon so you could go home with a beautiful floral design. Members £5, Visitors £8.

We meet at 1.30pm on the second Monday of each month at Hamble Memorial Hall and welcome all visitors to our meetings. With refreshments available and a raffle too it's a great way of getting to know other like-minded folks and make new friends. Why not come along and see if it's something that you would like to join and participate in throughout the year? Our membership fee for 2024/2025 is £35.

You can also follow us on Facebook or Instagram – just search for Hamble Flower Club. Jeanette often adds links to video posts by other well-known flower schools from around the world, which are definitely worth a watch. Email us at info.hambleflowerclub@gmail.com for more details.



Rosie Skeats, Chairman

HAMBLE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

The bird box maintenance programme for this year is now complete and over 50 new or refurbished bird boxes are in position throughout the woodland around Hamble. We are confident that they give a considerable amount of protection to nesting and resting songbirds evidenced by the clear signs of past use during maintenance.

Our Hamble Common scrub clearance has come to an end as we cannot disrupt wildlife during the breeding season, and so we have turned to other seasonal tasks. Litter picking never ceases but repairs following one of the wetter winters will include path and fence maintenance. We are delighted with the high turnout of

MESSAGE FROM HAMBLE VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL

We are sad to advise of the death of Richard Campbell-Walter on 1 March 2024.

Those of you who were associated with the Memorial Hall around the turn of the century will remember the old, shabby building and the indifferent heating from ancient gas heaters. Richard took over as Chairman of the Hall Committee and immediately tackled the job of getting money for renovation in a business-like way by approaching local sources including Hampshire County Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, and the National Lottery.

A plan had been drawn up which included the upper floor, toilets, and foyer but the finance depended on being awarded a National Lottery Grant. Richard recruited a large team of representatives from all who used the Hall and set about applying for the grant.

Unfortunately, he was called to Scotland on family business before it was concluded but those of us who were left behind saw the granting of the money and the building of the new part and renovation of the Hall. Without Richard's business experience and knowledge, we may not have the warm and pleasant building that we all enjoy today.

We all send our condolences and sympathy to his wife Annie.

volunteers this year which has enabled us to tackle some sizeable tasks but there is always space for more should you care to join us.

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 or contact Philip Rawlinson: philiprawlinson123@btinternet.com, 07810 453138.

COMMUNITY NEWS CONTINUED

HENVILLE EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION CHANGES

The Foundation's Clerk for the last 21 years, Wendy Mason, has decided to retire from this role and the new Clerk is Judy Theobald to whom all applications and correspondence should be sent. The Trustees wish to thank Wendy for the excellent work she has given the charity over the years.

The Henville Educational Foundation was set up by the Rev. Charles Henville in the 1840s to promote and assist the education of young people living in Hamble. The Foundation can help individuals or groups with grants for educational purposes.

Over the years it has made a significant difference to the education and experiences of many Hamble residents from pre-school age children to post graduate students. This includes help with purchasing books for courses, equipment, contributions towards extra tuition, including sporting and musical activities. It has also provided assistance to local youth groups such as hire fees for a meeting place.

Any person under the age of 25 who lives in Hamble may apply to the Foundation for financial assistance for their education, provided that it is not already available through public funds. The Trustees meet four times a year (March, June, September and December) and consider all applications on an individual basis. They welcome applications from anyone who meets the Foundation's criteria and encourage a wide range of applicant. The application form is very easy to complete but the Clerk can help with this task if necessary and/or answer any queries. As funds are limited, grants are allocated to those whom the Trustees consider are in the greatest need or would benefit the most.

All applications are confidential so please do not hesitate to apply if you feel that there is something that the Trust could maybe help you with. Further details may be obtained from the Clerk to the Trustees, Judy Theobald: 07789 654653.



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THE MERCURY LIBRARY & HUB

As previously mentioned, we have a very talented group of quillers at The Hub. Their latest creation has surpassed all other projects; this beautifully quilled wreath is the result of very hard work by everyone in the group so a very big well done to them. It is currently on display at The Hub so drop in and have a look.



It's been great to welcome Roy back to our Wednesday afternoon sessions. He has been kept busy solving people's IT problems (including helping with a Tesco on-line shop) so remember, 3.30pm to 5pm every Wednesday, no appointment necessary.

On 12 April, Shirley is coming along for another, increasingly popular storytime session, so bring your little ones at 10.30am for some storytime fun. On the same day we are running another free children's craft session from 2pm to 4pm. There will be loads to make for all ages and we don't mind if the grown-ups want to join in as well.

As always, there is lots going on at The Hub. Check out our Facebook page and leaflets around the village for details of current and upcoming events.

AN INVITATION FROM HAMBLE GOOD NEIGHBOURS

We would like to invite everyone to our Annual General Meeting:

- 11.15am on Tuesday 14 May 2024 at The Roy Underdown Pavilion, Spitfire Way
- Refreshments from 11am

As well as providing transport to take local residents to medical appointments, Hamble Good Neighbours is bringing back its programme of social gatherings and hoping to expand so that we can cover more essential shopping and welfare trips.

If you need some support or think you could volunteer, we would love to hear from you. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to find out more, please contact us on 0845 643 0371.

COMMUNITY NEWS CONTINUED

BIRD AWARE SOLENT: SPRING MIGRATION

Right about now, the migratory birds that spent the winter on the Solent coast are travelling to their summer breeding grounds, and we won't see them again until autumn. But why do birds migrate?

All birds really need in life is a plentiful supply of food and a safe and secure place to breed, but places change with the seasons. What might make a perfectly good summer home can be inhospitable in the winter.

For example, Arctic Siberia and Greenland might be the perfect isolated summer residences for our sanderlings, with plentiful food supplies, no disturbance from humans and less danger from predators. But once the temperature drops and the days begin to shorten, these tiny birds have a better chance of survival by travelling thousands of miles to spend the winter on our shores.

While modern technology has told us much about migration behaviour, there is still a lot we don't know. The secrets of birds' navigation skills aren't yet fully understood, probably because they use lots of different

senses to plot their routes which vary from species to species. It is thought they use a combination of triggers including the earth's magnetic field, their sense of smell, the position of the sun and stars, or simply recognising natural landmarks.

Some of our wintering coastal birds, like dark-bellied brent geese, are in the midst of migrations that span thousands of miles. Thank you to everyone who gave them space to rest and feed while they were here, helping them survive their perilous journeys.



FREE BOTTLE OF HOUSE WINE WHEN FOUR PERSONS DINE FOR SUNDAY LUNCH*

* Four persons must order a traditional Sunday roast from our main menu. Valid Sundays throughout April 2024. Not valid in conjunction with any other offer. Please present this voucher to validate.

The Gaff Rigger, Mercury Yacht Harbour, Hamble.
T: 02380 455595 W: gaffrigger.co.uk



COMMUNITY NEWS

AMAZING STORY OF HAMBLE REGATTAS!



Hamble Week Regatta Soap Box Derby.

For over 140 years, Hamble Regattas were the highlight of the year for most village residents. At the next Society's meeting its Chairman, Ian Underdown, will be giving a well-illustrated talk showing the activities of Hamble Regattas over the years.

Regattas at Hamble started at the end of the 1860s and a decade later royalty and visitors from far afield attended. Why not come along to hear the amazing events that took place as well as the usual rowing, sailing, and swimming races?

Events included walking a greasy pole for the prize of a live pig at the end, a bull fight on the Quay, an oil drum race that was reported as the First Drumaran World Championship, and Hamble Week's spectacular Soap Box Derby. Others included duck hunts, a water derby, and a floodlight sailing ballet. There were also the associated shore events such as carnivals, barbecues, exhibitions, fun fair and fireworks.

The meeting will be on Thursday 4 April, 7.30pm, at the Memorial Hall (Rear Hall). New members and visitors are always welcomed! Our meeting fee is just £2. If you would like more information please contact our secretary, Margaret Greenfield: 023 8045 4373.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTION DEADLINES

May: Monday 15 April

June: Monday 20 May

Would you like to contribute or advertise in the newsletter? Please get in touch by emailing danielle@smartmarketinguk.com



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COMMUNITY NEWS CONTINUED

HAMBLE LADIES GROUP

Another busy afternoon for March's meeting with over 40 members coming along to listen to Hilary Miller from the Ellen MacArthur Cancer Trust talking about the vital work they do.

Dame Ellen MacArthur called the sea 'her greatest inspiration' and launched the Trust to help young cancer patients; giving them the opportunity to experience the spirit of adventure, determination and possibility that comes from being on the water.

The Trust celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2023, helping young people aged 8-24 who have had cancer, taking them on sailing and outdoor adventures to inspire them to believe in a brighter future living through and beyond cancer.

They also give these young people the support they need with mental health issues, missing school, and having life changing surgery. It helps to 'normalise' the illness so that the young people feel accepted, gain independence and have hope for the future.



Sailing takes place in two bases on the Isle of Wight and Largs in Scotland. There are six boats and 30 children – for 8-17 year olds, and 18-24 year olds. Everyone is expected to get involved and by the time the week of sailing is over the children are the best of friends.

A very worthy charity, wholly dependent on donations, a big thank you to our members who gave generously.

It was a very interesting and emotional talk by Hilary.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 8 April at 2pm at the Priory Centre in Hamble, when we have a representative from the Blue Lamp – Bobby Scheme coming along.

Why not join us? You will be most welcome.

Bobby Conduit, 023 80 453626

COME AND ENJOY A GREAT DAY OUT OF FOOTBALL AND SUPERCARS!

Hamble-based child bereavement charity Simon Says has joined forces with The Saints Legends to bring you a fabulous Family Fun Day out at Totton Football Club (SO40 2RW). With gates open at 10am, families can enjoy the numerous stalls offering crafts, face-painting, a raffle, bouncy castle, giant slide, bar, food, and a chance to win a 'dream ride' in Supercar on the day! Tickets are free for those aged under 16 years (who must be accompanied) and just £5 for over 16 years.



The Saints Legends will be playing a team from Simon Says and it's sure to be a thrilling match with lots of 'faces' from Saints teams gone-by. There will also be the opportunity to play in a penalty shoot-out against a Legend for a donation.

Simon Says was founded in Hamble 23 years ago and supports children and young people under 18 years who have had someone close to them die, sadly usually a parent. They have seven Support Groups throughout Hampshire, a helpline and resources for schools and colleges. More information can be found at www.simonsays.org.uk.

Tickets are available at bit.ly/3x3VY2V or on the door.

UPCOMING DATES

Upcoming Parish Council Meetings at the Roy Underdown Pavilion

Asset Management Committee

Monday 2 April
7pm

Full Council

Monday 8 April
7pm

Planning Committee

Monday 22 April
7pm

**Walk and Talk
24 April
10.30am**

Meet at The Mercury Library.



**The Big Eat
25 - 27 April**

At Royal Victoria Country Park.
Saturday & Sunday: 10am – 8pm
Monday: 10am – 6pm



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