



Butterfly and Dragonfly photos by Peter Hyde, Roy Underdown Pavilion photo from Estates Team member Altin.

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 SUMMER NEWSLETTER!

Welcome to our bumper summer issue of the Hamble Village Newsletter. We seem to have arrived in July in record time; the long, warm days are a welcome change, and we can only hope for a bright and sunny summer ahead. This time of year brings a special vibrancy to Hamble, with community events in full swing and our beautiful surroundings at their most inviting for residents and visitors alike. Whether you're enjoying a leisurely stroll along the Foreshore or making the most of our green spaces, summer offers a wonderful opportunity to appreciate the natural beauty and charm of our village.

I was privileged to represent the Parish Council at the D-Day 80th anniversary commemorations at the Royal Southern Yacht Club on 6 June 2024. The Service of Remembrance was particularly moving, as we remembered those courageous men and women involved in Operation Overlord and the Normandy landings 80 years ago. Thank you to all who organised and took part in the programme of events, including the Spitfires Marching Band, the Bishop of Southampton, and of course, the team at the RSrNYC who did such a wonderful job arranging the commemorations on behalf of the village.

Since the last newsletter, we've received confirmation that the Secretary of State does not intend to 'call in' the Hamble Airfield quarrying application. This means that Hampshire County Council's decision to refuse Cemex's application is now official. Can Cemex appeal this decision? Yes – and they have 6 months to do so, with this period starting from 22 May 2024 (the date that planning permission was officially refused). At the time of writing,

no appeal has been made, but please keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram feeds and on the noticeboards around the village for updates.

One of the Parish Council's priority projects is the refurbishment of the Mount Pleasant play area. The play equipment here has certainly seen better days, and so we are in the process of drawing up a specification for renovation and/or replacement. As part of this process, we want to hear from you. Do your children use the play area? If so, we'd like to get your feedback on some of the design options. Equally, if your children don't use the existing facilities, we'd like to understand why. Please keep your eyes peeled over the summer for opportunities to share your thoughts.

Finally, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to two new Parish Councillors – Cllr Chris Cox and Cllr Sue Kendall – who were co-opted onto the Council at June's Full Council meeting. We are all very much looking forward to working with you both.

There are now two remaining Councillor vacancies which we need to fill, so if you live or work in Hamble and are keen to make a positive difference to the village, please do apply – further details are on page 2 of the newsletter.

Have a lovely summer. We will be back with the next newsletter issue in early September.

**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

# COUNCIL LED NEWS

## HCC FUTURE SERVICES CONSULTATION: DECISIONS POSTPONED

Due to the General Election on 4 July, Hampshire County Council (HCC) has decided to postpone making decisions on their Future Services Consultation until this autumn.

This consultation, which ran between January and March 2024, asked Hampshire residents for their views on 13 proposals which aimed to reduce or change local services to help address the £132million budget gap from April 2025.

The proposed budget cuts relevant to Hamble residents include the proposed 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 (e.g., 49H to Hedge End), and the reduction of highways maintenance activities (i.e., larger-scale structural repairs, surface treatments on roads and drainage improvements).

For more details, visit: <https://bit.ly/3RwfAUL>

## FLOAT TO LIVE THIS SUMMER

We're so lucky to have the river on our doorstep in Hamble. On a hot summer's day, there is nothing better than visiting the Foreshore for a cooling paddle.

If you're planning on spending time on or in the water this summer, make sure you know what to do if you get into difficulty. Your instinct will tell you to swim hard, but cold water shock could make you gasp uncontrollably, leading you to breathe in water and drown. Instead, you should Float to Live, following these 5 simple steps:

1. Tilt your head back with ears submerged
2. Relax and try to breathe normally
3. Move your hands to help you stay afloat
4. It's OK if your legs sink – we all float differently
5. Spread your arms and legs to improve stability

For more information on Float to Live, cold water shock, and rip currents, visit the RNLI website: <https://bit.ly/3RCIJP7> or stay up to date with the Hamble Lifeboat: <https://bit.ly/3Xy55nO>



## HAMBLE PARISH COUNCIL WELCOMES TWO NEW COUNCILLORS

Following the recent co-option exercise, we are delighted to welcome Chris Cox and Sue Kendall to the Parish Council. Councillor Cox will be joining the Planning and Assets Committees, and the Mount Pleasant Working Group. Councillor Kendall will be joining the Planning Committee and the Functions Working Group (which covers HR, Finance, and Communications).

We are looking forward to working with you both.

## COUNCILLOR CO-OPTION: WE NEED TWO MORE PARISH COUNCILLORS

Following the May 2024 local elections, and the co-option of Cllr Chris Cox and Cllr Sue Kendall, we still have two vacancies on the Parish Council.

This promises to be an exciting time to be on the Council: we have the Mount Pleasant redevelopment project starting to take shape, and several other projects underway.

While we'd value applicants with HR, IT, finance or project management experience, the most important criteria is to enjoy working as part of a team and wanting to make a positive difference to Hamble.

Anyone who lives and works in Hamble can apply to join the Council by co-option – which will take place at the next Full Council meeting on Monday 15 July 2024.

Can you spare at least 5 hours a month and would you like to get involved in helping to make Hamble a better place to live, work and visit? If so, please ask for an application form from the Parish Clerk: Helen, or visit <https://bit.ly/3Umbroj>



Deadline: The closing date for applications is 5pm on Monday 8 July 2024.



# COUNCIL LED NEWS CONTINUED

## RANGER'S REMARKS

Hello Hamble Habitants

As I was out and about doing my daily inspections around Hamble the other day I passed a slice of apple pie, an ice cream sundae, and a vanilla cheesecake. I thought to myself, "These streets are strangely deserted..."

As you're out and about enjoying the more settled weather and the lovely areas around Hamble, take a moment to watch and listen to the sounds and visions of nature around you, especially some of the insects that have migrated here. Many have made their way to our shores from faraway lands to enjoy the warmer weather conditions in the UK.

In fact, researchers have found the exact route of one of Europe's busiest summer getaways – the annual migration of millions of insects heading south through a high mountain pass in the Pyrenees.

Using video cameras and butterfly nets, researchers from the University of Exeter recorded an estimated 17 million flies, wasps, butterflies, and dragonflies pouring through a single 30-metre-wide pass between two peaks on the border of France and Spain. To think of so many insects all moving purposefully in the same direction at the same time is in my mind truly one of the great wonders of nature. There were some days when the number of flies was well over 3,000 flies per metre, per minute!

Insect air traffic may be invisible, but it's an essential part of ecology. Nearly 90% of the insects the researchers recorded are pollinators.

One visitor who is definitely not welcome in Hamble is the Asian Hornet.



While Asian Hornets are no greater risk to human health than a bee, they are a threat to our native honeybees, which is why it is important to quickly contain them. To help, you can use a smartphone app, Asian Hornet Watch, which was launched in 2017. This app makes it easier for people to judge whether an insect is an Asian hornet and

provides helpful information about their size, appearance and the times of year they are most likely to be spotted. Download this app here:



<https://apple.co/4b7HhKl>

There are fears this pest could reappear this spring and summer, so members of the public are being urged to report any sightings quickly to again allow inspectors to intervene.

Asian Hornets can be distinguished from their native counterparts by their abdomens, which are entirely dark except for a single band of yellow – native hornets' abdomens are predominantly yellow.



One small woodland corner of Hamble that is a personal favourite of mine is Heather Gardens, probably because of the woodland management we have been working on there.

I have it on great authority that there are a good number of birds making it their home, including goldcrests, firecrests, song thrush, blue and great tits, nuthatch and long-tailed tits too. This is just one small area on your doorstep and there's lots more to explore. Good folk of Hamble – get out and get twitching!

And finally, I think I'm going to start hiding when I come to work, as I hear that good employees are hard to find...

Until next time,

Mark Cowley,  
Estates Ranger

# HAMBLE PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

## THE YOUTH COMMISSION'S BIG CONVERSATION

"The Youth Commission is a brilliant opportunity for young people to gain knowledge, skills and new experiences, and to have their say on the crime and policing issues that matter most to them.

The Youth Commission helps young people to support, challenge and voice young people's opinions from across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and help shape decisions about policing and crime.

We embed diversity and inclusion in our work through our diverse membership and campaigns to ensure all young people are represented.

Every year we hold a 'Big Conversation' campaign which gathers feedback from young people in Hampshire on their experiences of crime and policing. This helps us to run projects and hold the Police accountable to improve your experiences.

So far this year we have spoken to schools on the topic 'Safe on the Streets', helping young people learn about subjects such as knife crime and how to report to the police. We have had fantastic youth commission days and have been out in the community at events talking with young people.

You can take part and have your voice heard through this year's 'Big Conversation' survey... use our QR code below to take part!"

Florence Smith, Youth Engagement Officer



## FAMILY FUN REGATTA

The family fun regatta that has for many years been fondly known as the 'Bursledon Regatta' is this year coming to Hamble. The format of the Regatta is unchanged with all the previously enjoyed fun events remaining in the 2024 programme.

The fun element of the Regatta will this year be held on the green on the Southern Quay (Hamble Foreshore), and the theme for the Regatta is D-Day: the 80th Anniversary.

The Regatta takes place on Saturday 7 September, with the yacht racing taking place on Sunday 8 September.

To find out more, visit <https://bit.ly/4cufc0O>, or search 'Bursledon Regatta'.



If you would like to get involved in the Regatta, or volunteer to help, please email [enquiries@bursledonregatta.org](mailto:enquiries@bursledonregatta.org).

## ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

HAMBLE  
PARISH  
COUNCIL

Hamble is generally a lovely place to live, but in the summer, levels of anti-social behaviour often rise.

Operation Aquatic (which is run by Hampshire Police) has been very successful at helping to reduce the rate of ASB in previous summers.

Here's what you need to know to help the Police respond to anti-social behaviour in our village this summer.

### What should you report?

- Harrassment
- Intimidation
- Noise nuisance
- Verbal abuse
- Criminal damage
- Hate-related incidents

### How to report anti-social behaviour and crime

Is the incident happening now?

Call 999

Please log the incident with HPC after reporting to Hampshire Police

[tinyurl.com/285cdhn8](https://tinyurl.com/285cdhn8)

Has the incident already happened?

Call 101 OR report at [tinyurl.com/4cth8z4r](https://tinyurl.com/4cth8z4r)



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# HPC's Estates Team's Diary

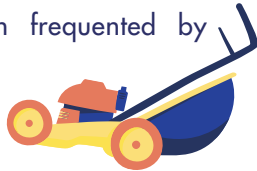
## WHAT WE'LL BE WORKING ON THIS SUMMER



Groundskeeping and maintenance play an important role in keeping the outdoor areas of Hamble village looking fresh and healthy. Seasonality has a significant effect on the annual planning of grounds' maintenance, due to the varying weather conditions throughout the year and seasonal needs of plants and foliage. This summer, the Estates team will be working hard to keep on top of grounds' maintenance by focusing on the following areas.

### 1. Grass Cutting

Overgrown or untidy grass can make our green spaces look unkempt and less inviting. Grass tends to grow faster in the summer (depending on the type of grass), so frequent mowing in the maintenance schedule is very important to give a neat-looking green space. Regular mowing helps to eliminate unwanted weeds and encourages denser turf. However, we avoid cutting the grass too short, as this can reduce the overall health of the grass through dehydration. On recreational areas we tend to cut the grass a little shorter as these spaces are often frequented by roaming deer. This has the added benefit of reducing the opportunity for ticks to thrive.



### 2. Pruning

Alongside cutting the grass, grounds' maintenance activity in summer largely consists of pruning shrubbery, hedges, and trees. It's important to keep on top of pruning and to make sure that any diseased, defective, or dead parts of the shrubbery are removed to encourage growth and restoration. Pruning also helps us stay in greater control of the aesthetics of the village's outdoor spaces and keep bramble in check.

### 3. Plant watering

In the summer, we're (sometimes) fortunate enough to experience hot weather. This can affect our plant watering routine. For example, we may water plants in the early morning to ensure they have enough water before the day's heat sets in.



### 4. Weed Control

As the weather gets warmer, you may see an increase in weeds growing around the village. Weeding is one of the least preferred summer grounds' maintenance tasks, but is necessary to keep car parks and pathways looking neat and tidy.

### 5. Pest Control

Pest control may also be necessary during the summer. We occasionally find signs of insect damage or rodent infestations while tidying the village's outdoor spaces, leading to the need for pest control services so we can all enjoy a pest-free summer.

### 6. Outdoor Areas: Repairs and Maintenance

All outdoor areas, including children's play areas, are typically used more frequently in the warmer months of summer – by residents and visitors alike. It's a good idea to make sure that outdoor furniture, play equipment and fixtures are in good condition before they see more frequent use, and to replace any overly worn items.

### 7. Cleaning and Clearing Up

Areas around the village, especially walkways and slipways, are kept clean and clear of debris to ensure the safety of residents and visitors. The outdoor spaces become busier during the summer months, so we typically implement a more regular cleaning routine during the season.

If you see any of our team out and about this summer, make sure to say 'hello'!

hello  
Summer



# Out & About In Hamble

With summer having finally arrived, why not make the most of our beautiful village over July and August – supporting our local businesses and exploring parts of Hamble that you may not usually visit.

Where to eat? Where to start! When it comes to fantastic restaurants, cafes, and pubs in our village, we have an embarrassment of riches. Whether you want a cold pint on a hot day, or a lovely meal with family or friends, Hamble has everything you could possibly want.

## Food & Drink

### **The Flying Boat Café:**

<https://hamblecatering.co.uk/the-flying-boat-cafe>

- Summer holiday event – starting on Monday 22 July
- Special summer menu:
  - Milkshakes
  - Waffles and Ice Cream
  - Pancakes
  - Ice Cream Sundaes
- Open until 3:30pm everyday



### **Cardamom Lounge:**

<https://www.thecardamolounge.co.uk>

- Table buffet every Sunday – 4 course meal
- 15% discount on collection orders (minimum spend £15)
- Free delivery within a 3 mile radius (minimum spend £15)

### **The Bugle:**

<https://www.idealcollection.co.uk/venues/the-bugle>

- Set lunch menu available Monday – Friday, from 12 to 3pm. Two courses £20, three courses £25
- View menus here: <https://bit.ly/4csY0Jo>

### **The River Rat:** <https://www.riverrathamble.co.uk>

- Jazz & Fizz, every Saturday from 1pm to 3pm with live jazz
- Sunny Sunday Cocktail Hours, from 12 to 3pm

### **The Victory Inn:** <https://thevictoryinn.co.uk>

- Family Day, 25 August 2024

### **Ketch Rigger at Hamble Point Marina:**

- <https://www.ketchrigger.co.uk>
- Saturday 27 July: Bottomless Brunch
- Summer favourites such as doorstep style sandwiches, burgers, fish & chips and salads
- Breakfasts, Sunday carvery, monthly 'All You Can Eat' curry nights



### **Gaff Rigger:** <https://www.gaffrigger.co.uk>

- From line caught seafood specials to sustainably sourced cod and chips
- Colchester oysters, Cornish mussels, scallops and native lobsters
- Great value three course lunch just £16, including a drink (Monday to Friday daytimes)

### **Banana Wharf:** <https://bananawharf.co.uk>

### **The King and Queen Pub:**

<https://www.thekingandqueenpub.co.uk>

### **Thaiger Lounge:** <https://www.thaigerlounge.com>

### **Ye Olde Whyte Harte:**

<https://www.yeoldewhyteharte.co.uk>

### **The Beach Hut Café:** <https://beachhuthamble.co.uk>

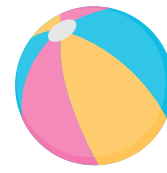
### **Cinnamon Bay:** <https://cinnamonbayhamble.co.uk>

### **Pirate Pasties:** <https://piratepasties.co.uk>

### **Jenny's Café:** <http://jennys-cafe.com>



# THIS SUMMER



## On The Water

- Crabbing with the kids**
  - Head to the Foreshore with your buckets and nets for a day of crabbing fun. You can get everything you need from Jenny's Café (including ice cream)

- Paddleboarding with River Hamble Adventures:**

- <https://www.riverhambleadventures.com>
- Beginner paddleboarding lessons at Botley: where the river is calm and sheltered and the scenery beautiful – with bank to bank green
- Intermediate paddleboarding lessons at Swanwick: where experienced paddlers can learn more advanced technique in a more challenging environment with stronger flows
- New course for 2024: Planning Trips. A 3-hour classroom-session for anyone who wants to paddle independently and plan their own adventures

- Sailing with Hamble Point Sailing School:**

- <https://yacht-school.co.uk>
- Local provider of RYA training courses
- RYA sailing courses, RYA powerboat courses, social sailing weekends and own boat tuition
- Ladies only courses, in a relaxed, safe and supportive environment

- Sailing with Hamble River Sailing Club:**

- <https://www.hrsc.org.uk>
- A thriving community dedicated to promoting sailing and water sports for all
- Regular Saturday and Wednesday evening sailing and social events
- Annual Camp Out in July
- Taster sessions available on Wednesday evenings and weekends at just £10 per session

- Boat Charter with Hamble Point Yacht Charters:**

- <https://www.yacht-charter.co.uk>
- Charter your own yacht to explore the Solent

- Wild swimming:**

- To enjoy the water, why not try wild swimming in the River Hamble? A note of caution – this is for confident swimmers or please join a local group.

## For Kids

- Eastleigh Active Summer Holiday Programme:**

- <https://bit.ly/4cv1gUo>
- Summer sessions for 5 - 16 years
- Sessions will run between 29 July - 23 August
- £3.50 per booking (£1 for those in receipt of qualifying benefits), some sessions free



- Testlands Sports:**

- <https://www.testlands.com/holidayclub>

**Testlands** **id** **FREE SPACES!** **HOT MEAL INCLUDED**

# HOLIDAY CLUB

**FUNDED HAMPSHIRE HAF SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB SPACES!**

**HAMBLE SPORTS COMPLEX**  
SATCHELL LANE, HAMBLE-LE-RICE,  
SOUTHAMPTON, SO31 4NE

DODGEBALL | FOOTBALL | RACKET SPORTS |  
STRUCTURED SWIMMING (UNDER 8'S) | BOUNCY CASTLES  
ARTS & CRAFTS | NERF WARS  
AND MUCH MORE

MONDAY 29 JULY - THURSDAY 22 AUGUST  
9AM - 3PM / FULLY FUNDED  
AGES 5 - 13  
HOT MEAL AND FRUIT INCLUDED

**WE WILL BE OFFERING SWIMMING EVERYDAY!**

Hampshire HAF runs on Monday - Thursday for the first 4 weeks of the Summer Holidays only.

evenOne ACTIVE Hampshire Learning Centre

OFSTED REGISTRATION NUMBER: 2402458

## Other Events

- Folland Sports Club Summer Fair – 25 August, 12pm to 10pm**

# Out & About In Hamble

# THIS SUMMER



## Get Active This Summer

### Cycling:

- If you decide to get on your bike to explore Hamble this summer, there are dedicated cycle routes throughout the village and local area, including:
  - River Hamble Valley bike ride cycle route that travels alongside the beautiful River Hamble (see <https://bit.ly/3xOL8dG>).
  - The National Cycle Route 2 (<https://bit.ly/3VwbAVs>) also runs right through Hamble, continuing on to Dover in the East and St. Austell in the west.



### Walks:

- Why not use one of our many open spaces for a game of football, a picnic, or just a wonderful walk? Start with College Playing Fields, Mount Pleasant, Hamble Common, Mercury Marshes, Hamble Peninsular Trail, and Westfield Common.
- Menopause Walk:
  - Monday 8 July, 6-7.30pm, meeting at Hamble Point Car Park.

### It's not too late to get involved!

We intend to publish these details on our website and share some of the events via our social media feeds over the summer. If you would like us to include your event, business, or summer activity, please email details to: [danielle@smartmarketinguk.com](mailto:danielle@smartmarketinguk.com)



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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## CURLEWS, OYSTERCATCHERS, AND THEIR INCREDIBLE BILLS

Curlews and oystercatchers are often seen along the Solent's coastlines and estuaries, taking advantage of the abundant food resources and suitable nesting areas. Here are some fascinating facts about how these fantastic birds use their incredible bills.

### Adaptable oystercatchers

Molluscs are oystercatchers' food of choice, and birds take individual approaches to extracting a mollusc from its tough outer shell.

Some birds will force the tip of their bill between the two shells and lever them apart in a swift twisting motion, while others will simply hammer away until they've made a hole that allows them to access the soft insides.

An oystercatcher's bill adapts to its preferred method – birds that prize shells open have a laterally compressed bill that they can wedge between two shells, whereas birds that hammer away at their prey have heavy, blunt bills.

### Clever curlews

Curlews are renowned for their spectacularly elongated, crescent shaped bills.



It's possible that this curvature makes it easier for the curlew to access hard to reach places like worm burrows. If you watch a curlew foraging, you may see them twisting and turning their heads to extract their prey from awkward places.

The tip of the curlew's bill is slightly enlarged and packed full of nerves that are highly sensitive to pressure, which means that they can detect the slightest of movements, including bubbles emitted by prey animals – a fatal giveaway as to their location.

### Sharing the shore

As a group, our shorebirds have collectively evolved different lengths of bills, so they are able to feed at different depths. This means that they are not in direct competition with each other, so you will often see lots of different species happily feeding together.

Find out more about the Solent's amazing birdlife: [www.birdaware.org/solent](http://www.birdaware.org/solent)



## SUMMER SOCIAL FOR HAMBLE LADIES GROUP

We had a fun afternoon on 11 June when over 60 ladies turned up to our social afternoon tea of strawberries and cream, scones and prosecco.

We set up long tables in the Priory Centre with posh tablecloths, cake stands and wine glasses, which came as a nice surprise to everyone who turned up. We just about had room for everyone.

We had a visit from the Lowford Line Dancing Group, led by Belinda Hayes, who gave us a very enjoyable line dancing demonstration. Members and guests were invited to join in some of the dances and we were pleased to see a number of them get up and take part. A lovely fun filled afternoon.

On 9 July, the Club is going on their annual outing and this time we are off to Brighton for the day with a tour of the Brighton Pavilion. Good weather has been requested!

Our programme for the rest of the year is as follows:

- Tuesday 13 August: Jack Jarvis – Rowing the Atlantic
- Tuesday 10 September: Craft Afternoon with Debbie Phillips
- Tuesday 8 October: Flushed with Success – Judy Theobald
- Tuesday 12 November: Birds of the Hamble River – David Luetchford
- Tuesday 10 December: Christmas Lunch

We meet at the Priory Centre, Hamble, and start at 2pm. Why not come along and join us; you will be very welcome.

Bobby Conduit, 023 80 453626

# COMMUNITY NEWS CONTINUED

## HAMBLE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS SHORE UP SEATING

We were recently tasked by the Hamble Parish Council Estates team to carry out the annual renovation of the seats on the Hamble Foreshore. These seats are well used and although robust, need revarnishing after a wet winter and spring. A large team of volunteers sanded down all of the seats and then applied a coat of varnish. The outcome was both pleasing to the eye and ensured that the seats are available to the public for many years to come.



Our annual programme of tasks is displayed on our website and notice boards posted around the Common. Please note that we meet on Mondays at 10am:

- The meeting place for the Parish tasks is at the Roy Underdown Pavilion at SO31 4RN.
- Beach cleans and Eastleigh tasks meet at School Lane car park which is now available again.

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

## NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTION DEADLINES

September: Monday 19 August

October: Monday 16 September

November: Monday 21 October

There is no newsletter in August.

If you have something that you would like to contribute or are interested in advertising in the newsletter, please get in touch – [danielle@smartmarketinguk.com](mailto:danielle@smartmarketinguk.com)

## NEWS FROM THE ST ANDREW'S PRIORY CENTRE

As you will recall from the May edition of the Hamble newsletter, the St. Andrew's Church clock was stopped for a short time for it to be brought up to date. It is very much a part of our village life and many of you have missed its chimes.

I am pleased to report that it has now been automated and returned to full working order. Its accuracy will be regulated by the national atomic clock; in other words, you can now set your watch by it!

As you will appreciate, this long-awaited upgrade to the clock has cost a lot of money and we will soon be asking for donations from the village to help pay for the work done via a Just Giving page on the St Andrew's website and in the September issue of this newsletter. Please donate if you can – any amount large or small would be greatly appreciated.

## Switching agents has never been so easy-peasy...

Move your properties to Leaders and get 3 months' **FREE\*** management.

Call us on **01489 854 382** or visit [leaders.co.uk](http://leaders.co.uk).

**L** | LEADERS

\*T&C's apply.

*Easy-peasy / lemon-squeezy*



# COMMUNITY NEWS CONTINUED

## HAMBLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Despite being on the same day as the 80th D-Day anniversary commemorations, a larger audience than expected attended our recent meeting, to hear Ray Smout talk about 'My Life as Hamble's Policeman'. Ray was



Hamble's policeman during the 1970s and he talked about his life and experiences as the village's policeman including some extremely humorous incidents.

Ray's claim to fame was that he was instrumental in solving a major crime in the village that led to the longest and costliest fraud trial in British history.

He went to the Hamble Manor Hotel in relation to a new liqueur licence application and was very suspicious of the circumstances. He started to take car numbers of the high spending London visitors and befriended the hotel barman for information. He built a relationship with the owners who thought he was a 'good mush' and harmless.

Ray's immediate concern was that Edward Heath stayed at the hotel, so he contacted headquarters and the Prime Minister was soon asked to stay at the Royal Southern Yacht Club. A bank manager from the Royal Bank of Scotland was a regular visitor and Ray was asked to supply information to the Fraud Squad. This eventually resulted in a 128-day fraud trail where the seven accused were imprisoned for a total of 23 years.

The Hamble Manor Hotel case changed his life as he was promoted to Sergeant and posted to Portsmouth. Ray was proud and had pride in being Hamble's policeman and thoroughly enjoyed his time in the village. He remarked that it was a lovely place to bring up his family.

A thoroughly entertaining and amusing talk that was enjoyed by everyone. Afterwards many said what a loss to society that nowadays we do not have a village policeman such as Ray.



For a full report of the meeting see <https://bit.ly/3zb8rmn>

## NEWS FROM THE MERCURY HUB



As always, our window display volunteers created a superb window for everyone to enjoy and maybe reflect upon in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of D-Day. Keep a look out for the next one.

As you may know, we hold regular coffee mornings for local good causes and our latest one was on 1 June to raise funds for the local Cherubs playgroup which has been operating since the 1980s. Cherubs is open to all parents and carers with little ones up to 3 years old and is currently run by Donna and Jenny every Wednesday from 10am to 11.30am at St Andrew's Priory Centre (term time only).

Donna and Grant Hearn gave a very entertaining talk and I'm happy to say that we raised £250 for them; thank you to all who came along to support this lovely group. Special thanks to Chloe Parr, one of our young members who made a fabulous range of cakes, and even took the trouble to list all of the ingredients for anyone with allergies. They sold out very quickly.

Summer holidays are approaching so keep a look out for details of our free craft sessions and story times, which will be running in August. As soon as we have finalised the dates, we will put them on our Facebook page. These sessions are always popular so if you haven't already been, make sure you come along and have some crafting fun.

Pop into The Mercury Hub if you haven't already done so. You'll always get a warm welcome from the volunteers. Without them we couldn't open as often as we do, so a big thank you to you all.

# COMMUNITY NEWS CONTINUED

## HAMBLE PLAYERS SET TO SWEEP YOU OFF YOUR FEET WITH DIRTY DUSTING

Have you got your tickets for our next play 'Dirty Dusting' yet? Directed by local hairdresser Tim Hughes, we'll be performing this wonderful show between 9-13 July in Hamble Memorial Hall. Doors open at 7pm.

Our next production is 'Boeing Boeing', which we'll be performing in the first week of September. Tickets on sale from Sunday 30 June. This comedy play has all the basics of a good old-fashioned farce. I wonder how many doors it will involve?

To buy tickets for Dirty Dusting or Boeing Boeing, visit our website or [www.hambleplayers/ticketsource](http://www.hambleplayers/ticketsource). Seats can also be booked and purchased by phoning the Box Office on 023 80 440660.



Our AGM is on Wednesday 31 July in Hamble Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. Do join us if you have any interest in amateur dramatics, whether on the stage or behind the scenes.

We are particularly on the lookout for anybody who wishes to operate the sound equipment for productions. Experience is not essential as training can be given. This could be the beginning of a new hobby for anyone who has an interest in the technical side of amateur dramatics.

## HAMBLE FLOWER CLUB

Can you believe that we are already in July with just half of the year left to go!

At our recent Club meeting we made Embroidery Hoops of dried and pressed flowers. It was great fun, and everyone enjoyed their practical session doing something we had never done before.



Suez Tyrwhitt-Williams from WetWheels also came in to tell us about what they do. We have chosen WetWheels as our charity to support this year. It was a really interesting and informative talk.

We have an interesting couple of months ahead starting with a demonstration by Kate Baxter on Monday 8 July, entitled "Bring me Sunshine". This is followed by a talk by Carol Norman on Monday 12 August: "Keeper of Memories". Both are open to the public, and you can pay on the door.

We also have a Club trip to Kew Gardens in August.

We are a friendly bunch, so if you are interested in coming along to our meetings or have any questions please contact us at [info.hambleflowerclub@gmail.com](mailto:info.hambleflowerclub@gmail.com).

## UPCOMING DATES

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

**Full Council**  
Monday 15 July  
7pm

**Planning Committee**  
Monday 22 July  
7pm

**Asset Management Committee**  
Monday 29 July  
7pm

### The Hamble School Summer Holidays 24 July – 3 September

Last day for students: Tuesday 23 July (early closure 1pm)  
INSED Day 2 September.

### Hamble Primary School Summer Holidays 24 July – 2 September

### Royal Victoria Bus and Coach Festival 14 July 10am – 6pm

At Royal Victoria Country Park.  
Free entry.

### Back In Time 21 July 11am – 4pm

At The Brickworks Museum.  
Tickets from £6.50.

### Save The Rave 10 August 12pm – 10pm

At Royal Victoria Country Park.  
18+ only, tickets from £29.90.

