



Black Tailed Godwits and Grey Wagtail photos by 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](mailto:danielle@smartmarketinguk.com)

## WELCOME TO YOUR LATEST NEWSLETTER!

As we welcome the arrival of spring, it's a pleasure to enjoy the more temperate weather and the promise of longer evenings ahead. With the clocks changing this month, we'll soon have even more daylight hours to make the most of Hamble's beautiful Foreshore and the many green spaces so wonderfully maintained by our hardworking grounds team.

The biggest topic of conversation around the village continues to be the Hamble Airfield planning application and, more specifically, Cemex's appeal, which is scheduled to begin on 1 April 2025. A dedicated team of residents, councillors, legal advisers, and specialist consultants has been working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure we have the strongest possible case. Their efforts are focused on gathering robust arguments, accurate data, and expert witnesses to defend our position. You can read more about the upcoming appeal on page 5.

Aside from Cemex, the Parish Council's other major focus over the past two months has been setting the 2025/26 budget. Our aim is always to make thoughtful decisions that serve the village as a whole and represent wise investments in community assets. We're very aware that our budget affects the Council Tax you pay – although it's worth noting that the Parish Council's portion typically

represents 5% of your total Council Tax bill. You can find more details about our budget priorities on page 4.

On a brighter note, I'm pleased to report that the new play area at Mount Pleasant is making excellent progress. This much-needed project, funded by £120,000 from developer contributions allocated before COVID-19, will offer a safer and more enjoyable space for children. You'll find a full project update and some photos of the progress so far on page 6 – we're all looking forward to seeing the finished result, just in time for the summer months ahead.

Finally, I'd like to extend a warm welcome back to Andy Thompson, who has rejoined the Parish Council following a co-option process at February's Full Council meeting. Andy's experience and insight have always been invaluable to the Council, and it's fantastic to have him back on board.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the newsletter and look forward to seeing many of you around the village as spring blossoms in Hamble.

**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

## THANK YOU, JESS – AND A WARM WELCOME TO JOE AND SASHA!

The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank Jess James, our Finance and Administration Officer, for her dedication and hard work over the last few years. Jess has now left the Council, and while we are sad to see her go, we are grateful for everything she has contributed. We wish her all the best for the future.

We are also pleased to welcome two new faces to the Council. Joe Grant has joined the grounds team as a Caretaker and Maintenance Operative, helping to keep Hamble's outdoor spaces in top condition. Hamble resident Sasha Lines joins us from Petworth Council in a temporary role as Interim Officer, focusing on leases and contracts.

We look forward to working with Joe and Sasha and hope you will join us in welcoming them to the Council team.

## HAMPSHIRE AND SOLENT DEVOLUTION – SHARE YOUR VIEWS!

The UK Government has launched an eight-week public consultation on devolution proposals for the Hampshire and Solent region. These proposals include forming a Mayoral Combined County Authority, transferring more powers and funding from Westminster to local councils. This change aims to enhance local decision-making in areas like transport, housing, skills, and economic development.

The consultation is open from 17 February 2025 until 11:59pm on 13 April 2025. Residents are encouraged to participate and provide feedback on these significant changes.

We will be sharing further updates once we know more about what these proposals are likely to mean for Hamble. To learn more and submit your views, visit the official consultation page: <https://bit.ly/3EL1IYA>



For additional information, including FAQs, visit Hampshire County Council's devolution page: <https://bit.ly/3EL1mM8>



Your input is vital in shaping the future of our region.



## HAMBLE COMMUNITY AWARDS – NOMINATION DEADLINE EXTENDED!

Thank you to everyone who has submitted nominations for our new annual Community Awards. Due to the Annual Parish Meeting being rescheduled for May (as the original date clashed with the Cemex Appeal Inquiry), we have extended the Awards nomination deadline to Monday 7 April.

Our Community Awards Scheme recognises individuals and groups who have made a positive impact in Hamble. There are three categories:

- Community Recognition Award (for individuals aged 17+)
- Community Recognition Award for Young People (aged 16 and under)
- Community Recognition Award for Groups (voluntary organisations and community groups)

Nominations are open to anyone who lives or works in Hamble and made a meaningful contribution to our community between January and December 2024 and up to April 2025.

Entries will be reviewed at April's Full Council meeting, with winners announced at the Annual Parish Meeting in May.

Each winner will receive a certificate and a £100 gift voucher.

### To nominate:

- Visit <https://bit.ly/40qjHp6> or;
- Collect a form from the Parish Office



Help us celebrate those who make Hamble a fantastic place to live!


## RANGER'S REMARKS

A new strain of lice is going around that is unfortunately resistant to conventional treatments... scientists have been left scratching their heads!

Early spring is in the air and with its arrival exciting changes start happening on the ground, in water, in trees, and in the air around Hamble and of course the rest of the UK.

If possible, I encourage you to take some extra time on your journeys out and about to witness some of nature's exciting seasonal events, such as:

- Flowers: see if you can spot the first crocuses, snowdrops, daffodils, and other spring flowers waking up from their winter slumber.
- Trees: watch for the appearance of new buds and shoots on bare branches. Some trees such as Hazel will also be blooming with long, unusual-looking flowers called catkins. 
- Birds: spring is a great time to see and hear some of the UK's most majestic bird species. In early spring in the UK, birds are building nests, searching for mates, and establishing their territory. One of the most significant markers of spring is the arrival of the dawn chorus, which begins in early March. Before dawn, robins, wrens, and a whole orchestra of other birds can be heard singing, welcoming in spring. 
- Ponds: in early spring, ponds in the UK are waking up from winter hibernation and becoming active again. This is an amazing time of growth and life in the pond, with new plants, insects, and wildlife making an appearance.

- Newts, frogs, and toads return to the pond after hibernating in gardens, compost heaps, and hedgerows. They mate and lay their eggs in the pond. Look out for frog's spawn appearing in a pond near you.
- Bees and other flying insects: bumblebees start to appear in March. The new queen bumblebees, having survived the winter, will search for a place to establish their new colonies and raise their first workers. In early summer, once the bees have hatched, they'll be back pollinating our countryside and gardens in full force. 

The grounds team has been busy during the winter months reducing some of the overgrown bramble, and in doing so has uncovered swathes of bluebells and other spring flowers that otherwise would have been hidden from view. They have also been out planting trees, hedges, and bulbs which you will all be seeing the benefit of soon in and around all the green spaces and woods in Hamble.

As wonderful as nature is, it's always worth noting that natural doesn't always mean safe. There is a plant you'll find in many gardens that if you were to sit under it for 10 minutes, you'd be dead! This plant is the *Nymphaea Alba*... otherwise known to you and me as the water lily!

Mark Cowley, Grounds Ranger

## NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTION DEADLINES

April: Monday 17 March

May: Monday 21 April

June: Monday 19 May

July: Monday 16 June

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)



Services for Individuals & Local Businesses

Company Accounts  
Tax Planning  
Personal Tax  
Start Ups

If you have a (tax) problem, if no one else can help, maybe you can hire The A – Team  
Free Initial Consultation  
[www.accountably.co.uk](http://www.accountably.co.uk)  
✉ [enquiries@accountably.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@accountably.co.uk)

☎ 023 8045 3907

# YOUR COUNCIL TAX FROM APRIL 2025

## What makes up your Council Tax?

Each year, your Council Tax is divided up, with portions going to Hampshire County Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, the Police & Crime Commissioner, the Fire & Rescue Authority, and Hamble Parish Council. The part of the bill that goes to Hamble Parish Council is known as the 'precept' and helps fund local services, facilities, and community projects. This is typically around 5% of your total Council Tax bill.

For the financial year April 2025 – March 2026, the Hamble Parish Council 'precept' will increase by 25.4%. What does this mean in real terms? For an average Band D home, this works out as an additional £38.22 per year (£3.19 per month = a takeaway coffee).

## Why is the precept increasing?

To support long- and short-term needs in Hamble – specifically in these three areas:

### 1. Investment in local assets

Some of Hamble's public assets – such as community buildings, playgrounds, and green spaces – have been underfunded. To ensure they remain safe, usable, and in good condition, we are allocating additional funds to:

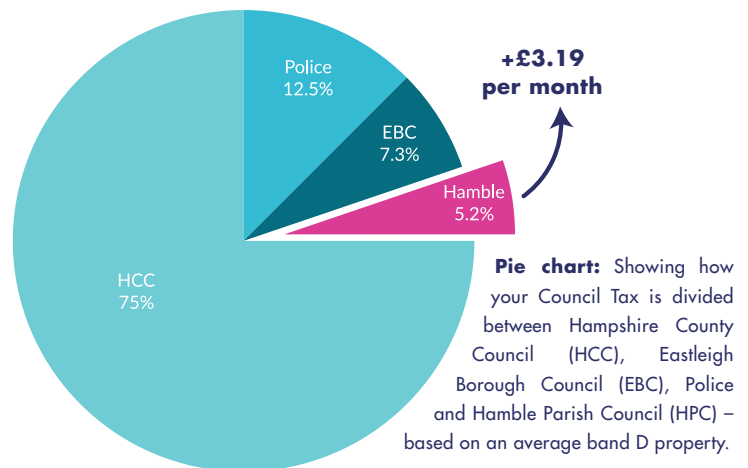
- **Improve public spaces** used by our community daily
- **Repair and maintain existing facilities** – such as Mount Pleasant, Foreshore toilets, benches, car parks, and bins throughout the village
- **Manage our assets and investments long-term** to prevent costly future repairs

This investment ensures Hamble remains a great place to live, work and visit – now and for years to come.

### 2. Addressing rising costs while maintaining local services

Like households and businesses, the Parish Council faces rising costs. These include:

- **National Insurance increases** which will affect all employers from 1 April 2025
- **Staffing costs** as we return to a full-strength team (7 people) for the first time since before Covid
- Higher costs to maintain our **public spaces and facilities**
- Increased prices for **services and materials**



These additional costs mean we are adjusting the budget to ensure services can be maintained at the same level.

### 3. Supporting the defence against Cemex and the Hamble Airfield appeal

Last but not least: Hamble Parish Council is working alongside Hamble Peninsular Residents Group and Eastleigh Borough Council to fight Cemex's appeal over the proposed quarry at Hamble Airfield.

To help fund this legal battle, we are sharing the burden in all respects – from legal and technical advice to covering the costs of an experienced legal team, including solicitors, a barrister, and specialist consultants who are guiding our appeal strategy.

- **Hamble Parish Council** is contributing through **Council Tax**, with all residents playing their part in funding the village's defence
- **Hamble Peninsular Residents Group** is raising funds from those who want to contribute **beyond their Council Tax**
- **Eastleigh Borough Council** is providing access to experts and helping to fundraise and identify **alternative funding sources**

This is a village and community-wide effort. By working together, we give Hamble the very best chance of success at the appeal.

### What does this mean? We're in this together.

This essential funding ensures we can maintain services, invest in our community, and protect Hamble's future.

If you have any questions or feedback, please contact one of the Councillors or the office team – we're here to listen.

## HAMBLE AIRFIELD: UPDATE ON THE APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our survey on the recreational use of Hamble Airfield in February. We received nearly 700 responses. This is an amazing effort and gives us real insight into how you use the Airfield, and where you would go if it were no longer available. We have fed the data into our legal team who will take it forward at the Inquiry.

### What's happened in the last month?

- Representatives of Hamble Peninsular Defence Group (the combined Parish Council (HPC) and Hamble Peninsular Residents Group (HPRG) team) continue to work with the solicitor, barrister, and specialist consultants who will be representing us at the Inquiry where Cemex's appeal will be heard. It is this experienced, expert legal team that is deciding our strategy – and prioritising the issues that offer the best chance of success at the Inquiry.

### What can you do to help?

- As discussed in our 2025 Budget article, the Parish Council has committed Council Tax funds to contribute towards the legal costs of fighting the appeal. HPRG is helping to raise funds; and Eastleigh Borough Council is helping to find alternative funding sources. However, we cannot pay for the defence of this appeal alone.
- Many of you have asked how you can help. Giving time is difficult because the depth of knowledge needed is significant. The best way to contribute would be to help raise money – through running or attending a local fundraising event (such as The Mercury Hub's 'Bring & Buy' sale) or donating to and sharing the GoFundMe page: <https://gofund.me/9529de16>.
- HPRG will be reaching out to local businesses in the coming weeks to ask for contributions towards the legal costs of the appeal. Please contact HPRG through their Facebook group (search: Hamble Against Unnecessary Development) if you can help.



### What happens next?

- Hampshire County Council, Cemex, and our team are currently producing Proofs of Evidence (PoE). These

are formal written documents submitted by witnesses or experts to support their case. It outlines their argument, provides factual information, and presents any relevant data, analysis, or professional opinions. These PoEs must be submitted to the inspector by 4 March 2025.

- At the time of writing: Cemex's Appeal is scheduled to start from 1 April 2025 – and will be heard by a Planning Inspector. We will keep you updated in the next edition. In the meantime, please keep an eye on social media, website and the notice boards.

### Many thanks for your continued support.

## THANK YOU TO HAMBLE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

A big thank you to Hamble Conservation Volunteers, who recently helped the Parish Council's grounds team to clear the remaining scrub at Westfield Common. During this task an extraordinary number of bottles, cans, plastic items, and dog mess bags were removed from the bushes, especially around the car parking areas next to the litter bins.

Over 20 full sacks of rubbish were removed – plus metal items and even a pair of fisherman's waders!



# MOUNT PLEASANT PLAY AREA COMING SOON!

We are delighted to report that the installation of the brand-new play area at Mount Pleasant is now well underway and would like to extend a sincere thank you to parents, children, residents and businesses for your patience and understanding during this period of disruption.

It's been especially encouraging to see so many families taking the opportunity to walk or cycle to school during the temporary closure of the car park – a healthy habit we hope continues long after the work is complete.

The new play area has been funded through S106 developer contributions that were allocated to Hamble Parish Council before the COVID-19 pandemic. S106 payments are made by property developers to local councils to help fund community improvements as part of planning agreements.

These funds were designated by Eastleigh Borough Council for improvements to Mount Pleasant. Given the deteriorating condition of the old equipment – with broken fixtures, rising maintenance costs, and an increasing risk of injury to children – it was clear that investing in new, safer equipment was necessary to ensure children could enjoy the space safely. Our goal is to have the new play area ready in good time for Easter and the warmer weather this year.

At the time of writing, the project is progressing smoothly. The old equipment has been removed, new play structures

**BEFORE**



**DURING**



are being installed, and essential groundwork, footpaths, fencing, and access gates are already in place.

We're also planning some special activities with the children of Hamble Primary School to celebrate the official launch of the play area. Keep an eye out for more details in the April issue of the newsletter!

Thank you once again for your continued support – this new play area is sure to be a space for fun, adventure, and community for years to come.

**BEFORE**



**DURING**



**DURING**



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## HAMBLE LADIES GROUP

Well, it was grey, it was cold, but we still had a lovely crowd of ladies turn up for our meeting on Tuesday 11 February. Christine Chisholm visited us to talk about her volunteering work with the Jumbulance Trust, an organisation that makes accessible travel possible. The Trust has been operating since 1980.

Christine, a trained Specialist Palliative Care Nurse, became involved with the Trust after learning about the amazing opportunities it provides for disabled people to travel. The Jumbulance Trust arranges holidays, day trips, pilgrimages, and sporting events across the UK and Europe, ensuring that travel is accessible for all.

**What they do:** Jumbulance is the original inclusive travel charity. Their custom-built coaches provide lift access, wheelchair travel, accessible toilets, and a galley kitchen and beds. The coaches are 14 metres long, the same size as a 52-seater coach, with level floors inside, a platform lift, trolley beds, and seating for 18 people. Each trip includes volunteers, as well as support from doctors and nurses. Travel is in personal wheelchairs or by bed on an accessible coach. Accessible accommodation is provided on all trips.



The Trust is a charity and relies on donations. Charity balls, sponsored walks, and garden parties are some of the ways they raise money. The trips are not free but help with finances is available if needed. It was a very interesting talk.

On 11 March we have Karen Townsend coming along to talk to us about Misty Ceramics. Meetings start at 2pm in the Priory Centre, Hamble. Why not join us? You will be very welcome.

(P.S. – don't forget your mugs, ha ha!)

### Our programme up to June 2025

- 8 April: Sing4Fun – Elaine Johnson
- 13 May: Bletchley Park – Peter Marcham
- 10 June: Social Afternoon

Bobby Conduit, 023 8045 3626

## UPDATE FROM ST. ANDREW'S



We are very pleased that we now have a new vicar in the parishes of Hound and Hamble.

Rev Hayley has been spotted out and about in Hamble and Hound, often sporting red paisley wellies as she familiarises herself with our beautiful villages, country park,

and coastline. It seems that some people she meets express surprise that she shops in the Co-op, buys her husband's Valentines card in the Post Office, posts letters in the gold post box, is prepared to queue at Jenny's for a butty or Pirates for a pasty... she has even been spotted in several of our many watering establishments. Perhaps Hayley is just like us after all.

If you haven't met Hayley yet, do stop her on her walks around the village and let her know what you love about living here and what she should not miss this year.

Hayley would love to hear how St Andrew's Church can get more involved in Hamble community life, and if there is any constructive advice that the church needs to hear about.

Hayley is usually taking our services in Hamble the first and third Sundays of the month, and St. Edwards in Netley Abbey the second and fourth Sundays.

News of our Easter services will be published in the April newsletter for the village.

There is a confirmation preparation class about to start so if you've been thinking about confirming your faith, please do contact the Church on [standrews.hamble@gmail.com](mailto:standrews.hamble@gmail.com).

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## HAMBLE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

We remain very busy assisting both Eastleigh Borough and Hamble Parish Councils on significant maintenance tasks. Scrub clearance is a priority as it will not be long before we must call a halt owing to birds starting their annual breeding season. Sadly, one of our perpetual tasks is to collect litter from our beaches and the wider Hamble environs. Fortunately we are far from alone on this task; we spoke to a couple recently who have made it their mission to collect rubbish while walking their dog.

Their achievement is truly remarkable. During the year from October 2023 to October 2024 they collected 1254 cans, 162 vapes and lighters, 2062 plastic bottles, and 520 glass bottles. Their efforts should be an inspiration to everyone to keep Hamble clean and safe!

Our annual programme of tasks is displayed on our website and noticeboards posted around the Common. We meet on Mondays at 10am; the meeting place for the Parish tasks is at the Roy Underdown Pavilion at SO31 4RN whereas beach cleans and Eastleigh tasks meet at School Lane car park.

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.

## HAMBLE VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL NEEDS YOU

Could you spare between 12 and 15 hours a year to become a volunteer committee member at the Memorial Hall, and provide a valuable service to your local community?

Hamble Village Memorial Hall is a wonderful facility for local residents, providing a venue for meetings, children's education, dance and fitness classes, and local organisations.

In addition, many of you will be familiar with the fabulous drama productions put on by Hamble Players in the hall.

# STRATUS MARINE

Bespoke Marine Management  
Contact - [matt@stratusmarine.com](mailto:matt@stratusmarine.com)

THE BUGLE  
HISTORIC WATERSIDE PUB

# Locals' Night

First Thursday of each month 8.30pm - 10.30pm

DROP IN FOR LIVE MUSIC, DINNER, DRINKS, OR BOTH!

THE BUGLE,  
HIGH ST,  
HAMBLE  
SO31 4HA

Follow us on social for updates

To book visit our website or call

WWW.IDEALCOLLECTION.CO.UK | 023 8045 3000

Running of the hall is overseen by a manager and committee of volunteers who get together six times a year to make decisions on everything from hiring charges to maintenance of the building. Each meeting takes around two hours and is held in the afternoon or evening to suit everyone attending.

It is vitally important that decisions about Hamble's hall are made by people who live in Hamble – it is a facility for everyone to use so community representation is vitally important.

The next committee meeting will be held in early March. If you think this is something that would interest you, please contact Rebecca at [hall@hvmh.org.uk](mailto:hall@hvmh.org.uk) or 07983 220588 to find out more.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A HAMBLE PLAYER?



Did you know that the first known play in Hamble was performed on 14 February 1920 by the Hamble Dramatic Club to raise funds for the Memorial Hall? In 1947, it became the Hamble Dramatic Society, with a cast mainly from the College of Air Training.

Rehearsals were held at The Victory Public House or the old Rectory. Several groups have formed since then, with the Hamble Players noted as a new organisation in January 1955.

Over the years, our productions have impressed audiences, making us a proud part of village life. With around forty members, we always welcome new participants.

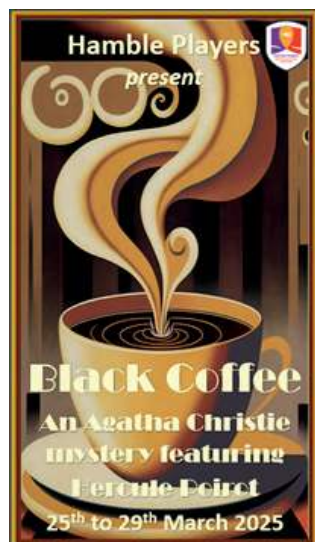
Members are not obligated to perform on stage as our productions also require participation in front of house and hospitality roles, set building, and assisting the stage manager with props, costumes, sound, lighting, and set movement.

If you are interested in joining Hamble Players, you can complete the online form at <https://hambleplayers.co.uk/get-involved/>, and we will invite you for a coffee and a chat.



In the meantime, there are a few tickets still available for the Agatha Christie mystery 'Black Coffee' which will open on 25 March 2025 at the Memorial Hall.

To buy tickets, call the Box Office on 02380 440660 or buy online: <https://bit.ly/46rJyxU>



## UPDATE FROM THE MERCURY LIBRARY AND HUB

Once again, our window display volunteers have come up trumps with another beautiful creation. You'll be sure to be put in a romantic mood once you've seen it.

As we all know, Cemex has launched their appeal to turn our Airfield into gravel pits. To carry on fighting this on behalf of the village, the Hamble Peninsular Residents Group, supported by Hamble Parish Council, has employed a barrister, solicitor, and specialist consultants to work with them. This obviously incurs a lot of cost. To offer some financial support to the Group, who have worked tirelessly throughout this whole process, the Mercury Hub is holding a 'bring and buy' sale throughout February and March, with all money raised being donated to help towards these costs. Please come along and see what is on sale – there are some real bargains to be found. Saving the Airfield from destruction is close to most people's hearts, so let's do what we can to help. We are also happy to take monetary donations which can be passed on if you are unable or unhappy to donate online.

It seems to have been a long, cold, drawn-out winter so far, so remember that we are a designated warm space where everyone is guaranteed a cheery welcome plus a hot drink (including soup for those who want it), biscuits (some home-made), and Joan's famous cheese straws. Please pop along if you haven't already done so.

Once again, a big thank you to the band of dedicated volunteers who keep The Hub alive.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## HAMBLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

At our last meeting, Geoff Watts gave a talk entitled 'An Armchair Tour of the Hamble Valley' telling stories of places in the Borough of Eastleigh using its Coat of Arms as his guide.

Regarding Hamble, he talked about the Hardwicke family that had naval connections. The wife of the 4th Earl of Hardwicke who owned Sydney Lodge is buried in Hamble churchyard, but it was her son, Charles, that lost the family's seat and large estate, Wimpole Hall, in Cambridgeshire. Her eldest son's problem was that he was a spendthrift and became £300,000 in debt – hence losing their Cambridgeshire estate. He was the inspiration for the musical character of 'Champagne Charlie'.

An interesting talk from Geoff with many fascinating facts about our area that most people would not have known.

The Society now has the latest 1921 Census of Hamble on its comprehensive website [www.hamblehistory.org.uk](http://www.hamblehistory.org.uk)



Some of Hamble's prominent residents in 1921

Before the First World War there were 695 people living in Hamble with 134 living onboard, including 113 Mercury boys. The main employment was working on the village's farms, at Luke Brothers Boatyard, or working for the rich people living in the large houses.

In the 1921 census it shows everything had changed, with aviation manufacturers A V Roe and Fairey Aviation now the largest employers. This census shows that Hamble had grown, with 750 people now living here, and newcomers moving into the village to work in the new aircraft factories. Verdon Avenue (where A V Roe built houses for its employees) and Hampton Cottages in Hamble Lane are not included in these figures as they were still in the parish of Hound.

## What's your home worth?

Book your free sales or lettings valuation by calling us on 01489 854 382 today.



Scan the QR code to book your free valuation today.

**L** LEADERS



### Time for a cuppa

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

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**DEMENTIA COFFEE MORNING**  
Sponsored by the RSrnYC Fundraising Team

A new Fashion Show for 2025!  
**SHARON LISLE DESIGNS - handmade in England**

Mary Fry Chocolates Annie's Lilac Tree Cards

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

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  
@TFACuppa  
TFACuppa

**DementiaUK**  
Helping families face dementia  
Registered Charity No: 1039854

## UPDATE FROM HAMBLE FLOWER CLUB

Hello everyone.

What an interesting talk we had last month from Ben Cross on alstroemerias! It was lovely to see some new faces coming along to enjoy the talk.



March is our AGM, where we will reveal our new programme for 2025/26. This coming year is packed with exciting events, including a mix of talks, demonstrations, workshops, and a Club trip to the Hampton Court Flower Festival.

Looking forward to April and the very talented Harriet Riddout will be coming along with her sewing machine to tell us about her journey around the world... with a little twist. Why not get in touch to find out more?

Our NEW Floral Classes are ready to book your place. You can come along to learn the basics of flower arranging, design, shape, colours, and so much more.

These will be short courses – 1 per month over 3 months – and are being held at the Roy Underdown Pavilion. The first of these will run in May/June/July. If this is something that you would like to do, please get in touch for more information. There are only 10 places available which I'm sure will go very quickly.

If you are interested in coming along to any of our meetings or have any questions, please contact us:  
[info.hambleflowerclub@gmail.com](mailto:info.hambleflowerclub@gmail.com)

We are a friendly bunch and meet on the 2nd Monday of each month at Hamble Memorial Hall. Doors open at 1pm for a 1.30pm start.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Rosie Skeats, Chairman

## MARCH SPECIES SPOTLIGHT: DARK-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE

The winter season is almost at a close – we can finally say goodbye to dark afternoons and chilly mornings for another year.

The changes in daylength and temperature in March spark a phenomenon in wintering birds called migratory restlessness. This is when species, such as the dark-bellied brent goose, start preparing themselves for a monumental journey up to their nesting grounds in the Arctic.

This small species of goose regularly flies up and down the Hamble estuary with the tide change, looking for tasty eelgrass, sea lettuce and algae.

Sometimes, at high tide, you can spot them in fields as they munch on grasses and cereals. This feeding frenzy helps them to build up on fat reserves, providing plenty of energy to fly long distances.

Of course, flying 3000 miles to Siberia is a journey that can take many weeks, by using stop-off destinations to rest.

Most dark-bellied brent geese start to leave the Solent in mid to late March, heading over to the Wadden Sea in the North Sea. They will continue to fly and rest in family groups on their way to the Taymyr peninsula in Arctic Siberia.

This immense journey is only possible if we allow them the time to rest and feed along the Solent. Thank you to everyone who gave the birds space this winter, ensuring they continue to use the Hamble for many more years to come.



# BANANA PANCAKES RECIPE

## INGREDIENTS

350g self-raising flour  
1 tsp baking powder  
2 very ripe bananas  
2 medium eggs  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
250ml whole milk  
butter for frying



## To serve

2 just ripe bananas, sliced  
Maple syrup (optional)  
Pecan halves, toasted and roughly chopped (optional)

## METHOD

**Step 1:** Sift flour, baking powder, and salt into a bowl. In another bowl, mash bananas, then whisk in eggs, vanilla, and milk. Pour wet ingredients into dry and whisk into a smooth batter.

**Step 2:** Melt butter in a pan over medium heat. Pour in 2-3 tbsp of batter and cook until bubbles form. Flip and cook for 1-2 minutes. Repeat with remaining batter, keeping pancakes warm.

**Step 3:** Stack pancakes, top with banana slices, maple syrup, and pecans if desired.

# UPCOMING DATES

## Upcoming Parish Council Meetings at the Roy Underdown Pavilion

### Asset Management Committee

Monday 3 March  
7pm

### Full Council

Monday 10 March  
7pm

### Planning Committee

Monday 24 March  
7pm

## Pancake Day

4 March



## Hamble and Netley Borough Ward By-Election

6 March

More information can be found here: <https://bit.ly/4b3Bk2R>



## Artists and Makers Fair

8 March  
10.30am – 3.30pm

At Royal Victoria Country Park (The Chapel). Free entry.

## Wessex Sinfonietta, Concert in the Chapel

16 March  
3.30pm – 4.30pm

At Royal Victoria Country Park (The Chapel). More information and tickets can be found here: <https://bit.ly/4b7zT3m>



## Walk and Talk Hamble

19 March  
10am

Meet at The Mercury Library & Community Hub. Book here: <https://bit.ly/437DUTD>



## Dementia Coffee Morning

27 March  
From 10.30am

At The Royal Southern Yacht Club.

## The Foxer Winter Championships

15 – 16 March

At Hamble River Sailing Club.

## Clocks Go Forward (British Summer Time)

30 March

## Hamble Community Awards: Nomination Deadline Extended!

Monday 7 April

### To nominate:

- Visit <https://bit.ly/40qjHp6> or;
- Collect a form from the Parish Office

