

# Hamble Village News —

## May 2025



Moo Moo (photo from Amanda Coombes), brown male and black female Hairy Footed flower bees, and Red Mason bee (photos by Chris Barry). 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!

April was a busy month in Hamble, with plenty going on throughout the village. The reopening of the Mount Pleasant play area was a real highlight, bringing the community together, while the Inquiry into Cemex's quarrying plans for Hamble Airfield kept attention firmly on an issue that continues to matter to so many in our community.

A big thank you to everyone who attended or spoke at the Inquiry. The community was well represented, and the arguments made against Cemex's proposals were clear, well-informed, and delivered with impact. Particular thanks go to the schoolchildren who spoke with impressive confidence and conviction, to MP Paul Holmes and Eastleigh Borough Council Leader Keith House, and to Police and Crime Commissioner Donna Jones, whose written submission highlighted the serious implications of the proposed quarry on the Police Training College. Local businesses also added weight to the community's concerns, and their input is appreciated.

The Inquiry now pauses until 24–26 June, when it will resume with a focus on highways concerns and the demand for aggregate. I cannot let this moment pass without thanking Emma Westmacott, Matthew Waters, and the Hamble Peninsular Residents Group once again. They have worked tirelessly to ensure the legal team and specialists have everything they need to make the best possible representations on the community's behalf and have given every spare moment over the last few months – alongside full-time jobs and businesses – to prepare our case. As a village, we are lucky to have them.

With the sunshine having finally made an appearance, the Foreshore is back to looking its best – not least due to the efforts of the Hamble Conservation Volunteers, who planted flowers over Easter weekend on behalf of the Parish Council. Thank you for giving up your Bank Holiday to help make the Foreshore nicer for us all.

Thanks also to Iwan Thomas and the Deputy Lieutenant for joining us to officially open the newly refurbished Mount Pleasant Play Area at the end of March. The event was made all the more special by pupils from Hamble Primary School, who decorated the fence with what is undoubtedly the village's longest-ever paper chain. Our thanks too to headteacher Claire Hewitt who arranged all the school's contributions, including both the 'Welcome' sign and the play area pledge. We have some very talented youngsters in our village!

Finally, a reminder that the Annual Parish Assembly takes place on 7 May at Roy Underdown Pavilion. This is an opportunity for residents to raise issues, make suggestions, and hear updates from the Parish Council. It's also the first year of the Annual Community Awards, recognising those who have gone above and beyond for Hamble over the last 12 months. Thank you to everyone who submitted nominations – we look forward to announcing the results on the night.

**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

## FUNDING SECURED TO UPGRADE VILLAGE INTERPRETATION BOARDS

We are pleased to share that we have secured a grant of £33,805 from the Bursledon, Hamble, and Hound Local Area Committee (one of five Committees representing different areas in the Eastleigh Borough). The funding, which comes from developer contributions via Section 106 (S106) agreements, will be used to upgrade the existing interpretation (or information) boards located around the village.

Many of these boards are now showing their age, with faded text, worn images, or physical damage. The Council's aim is to give them a much-needed refresh, creating a consistent look across all sites while improving accessibility. This includes reviewing font size, font type, layout and wording to ensure the new designs are easy to read and meet DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) compliance standards.

For context, S106 agreements are legal obligations placed on developers as part of planning approvals, requiring them to contribute towards local infrastructure or community improvements. These contributions are restricted and can only be spent on specific, agreed purposes – in this case, public arts.

Parish Clerk Helen will be leading a small working group to drive the project forward, and we look forward to sharing more updates as the work progresses.

## ASSET TRANSFER PROGRAMME

As part of the ongoing Local Government Reorganisation in Hampshire, Eastleigh Borough Council has approached all town and parish councils within the Borough (including Hamble Parish Council) to gauge their interest in taking over the assets in their area.

The types of assets being considered differ according to location, but could include green spaces, buildings, and community facilities. Some larger or more strategic assets, like big leisure facilities or transport hubs, are likely to stay with the Borough Council, as they serve the whole area rather than an individual parish.

We have created an Asset Transfer Working Group to

## HAMBLE AIRFIELD INQUIRY – FIRST SESSIONS COMPLETE

The first part of the Inquiry into the future of Hamble Airfield commenced on 1 April. During these initial sessions the focus was on the hydrological and ecological impacts of quarrying for sand and gravel in the middle of our village. The community was powerfully represented by expert witnesses Dr Tony Clothier, Richard Andrews, and Professor Stephen Holgate, whose evidence and statements clearly articulated the concerns shared by many in Hamble.

Thank you to all the residents and businesses who attended and made representations at the Inquiry. Your personal stories and thoughtful contributions made a real impact and will hopefully help the planning inspector understand what this development would mean for our children, residents, schools, businesses, visitors, and community.

Thank you also to those who attended the live streaming at Roy Underdown Pavilion, or who watched from home. There can be no doubt as to the strength of feeling in the village against the quarry proposals.

The second and final part of the Inquiry will run from 24 to 26 June at Ashburton Hall in Winchester. This time, the focus will shift to transport considerations and aggregate demand.

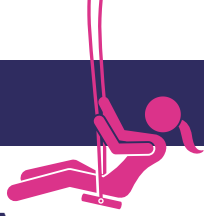
We'll provide more information in the June newsletter, including how you can attend or livestream the proceedings.

Thank you for your continued support in standing up for our village.

assess the assets in Hamble which Eastleigh Borough Council would like to transfer to our ownership. This Working Group is currently undertaking due diligence on each asset to understand what would be involved in ongoing management (both in terms of costs and resource). They will also consider what improvements might need to be made in the future, and how existing assets could be improved to enhance the offering to the village.

We have been asked to express interest in specific assets by May 2025 for a first phase of transfers, with an aspiration that these transfers be completed during 2025/2026.

We will provide further updates on the proposed asset transfer in the next newsletter, and on our social media feeds.



## MOUNT PLEASANT PLAY AREA: OFFICIALLY OPEN!

We're delighted to announce that the newly renovated play area at Mount Pleasant was officially opened on 31 March – and what a fantastic day it was! The sun was shining, spirits were high, and it was lovely to see so many people in the community come together to celebrate.

We were delighted to welcome the Deputy Lieutenant, who attended in full regalia, and former Olympic 400m silver medallist Iwan Thomas, who gave an inspiring speech about his own childhood and the importance of safe, fun spaces for children to play and let off steam.

A huge thank you to everyone who made the project and the event possible – from those who worked behind the scenes to bring the play area to life, to the families and local residents who joined us on the day.

Special thanks to the talented children of Hamble Primary School, whose creativity brought us the fantastic Welcome Sign and the thoughtful Play Area Pledge that now greet visitors to the site.

We hope the children (and grown-ups!) of Hamble enjoy the space for many years to come.



## JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY – WEDNESDAY 7 MAY

The Annual Parish Assembly is a key event in the village calendar – a chance for Hamble residents to raise ideas, share concerns, and engage directly with the Parish Council about the issues that matter most to our community.

This year's meeting will take place on Wednesday 7 May at 7pm at the Roy Underdown Pavilion.

The Assembly is your opportunity to:

- Put forward ideas for community events or local initiatives
- Raise concerns about public spaces, footpaths, or amenities
- Share thoughts on planning, development, and the future of Hamble

- Suggest improvements to services or environmental projects

We're also excited to be launching our first-ever Annual Community Awards, celebrating the individuals and groups who have gone above and beyond to make a positive impact in our village.

### Want to attend?

- Please register online here:  
<https://bit.ly/3Fzltwf>



### Got a topic or idea you'd like discussed?

- Submit it through the same link or email us at:  
[reception@hambleparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:reception@hambleparishcouncil.gov.uk)

We look forward to welcoming you and hearing your ideas for the future of Hamble!

## OPERATION AQUATIC: PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE

In last month's newsletter, we shared details from our March Full Council meeting, where PC Simon Peacock provided an update on Operation Aquatic – the police initiative aimed at tackling anti-social behaviour at the Foreshore and other local hotspots.

Following this meeting, Hamble Parish Council has expressed concern about some aspects of this year's revised proposals to manage antisocial behaviour and crime on the Foreshore. Specifically, the indication that police will not be reacting proactively to youth gatherings nor issuing dispersal orders.

In the view of the Parish Council and other stakeholders, dispersal orders were an effective tool in de-escalating issues and maintaining a safe, welcoming environment.

We are keen to understand what role we can play in pre-empting and managing potential issues before the summer season gets into full swing. To that end, we are proposing that Operation Aquatic meetings be reconvened, bringing together all relevant organisations to review last season's activity and agree on a coordinated approach for the months ahead.

We are grateful to our local police team for their continued presence, especially during the busy summer months. As PC Peacock highlighted, reporting incidents remains vital so that the police can build a full picture of activity and allocate resources appropriately.

How to report crime or antisocial behaviour:

- Call 999 immediately if a crime is taking place right now.
- Report online: <https://bit.ly/3Fz4JGk>. This can be done at any time after witnessing an incident.
- Report anti-social behaviour directly: <https://bit.ly/3DTNqiP>



Hello Hamble Habitants.

I told one of my hilarious jokes on a recent Zoom meeting and can you believe it – no one laughed! It turns out I'm not remotely funny!

One of the main jobs for the grounds team now that the warmer, sunnier, and longer days are here is grass cutting. Every grassy green space we manage will have an area left wild to benefit local wildlife. However generally in the words of our senior groundsman Altin, it's mostly cut, cut, cut!

Springtime is probably my favourite time of the year as it is the season of new growth – especially for the gardeners among us.

In a world where screens are often the centre of attention, gardening offers a valuable opportunity to unplug for a while, get your hands dirty and enjoy the great outdoors as a family.

So, what can you and the kids get up to in the garden this year? Here's some ideas to get you started.

1. DIY seed bombs – roll your sleeves up and create balls using wildflower seeds, compost and clay. Let them dry and chuck them around the garden or any green space and enjoy seeing beautiful flowers pop up in unexpected places.
2. Encourage creativity by building a miniature fairy garden with rocks, sticks, and other natural materials.
3. Construct a bug hotel using natural materials like wood, rocks, and dried leaves to provide a home for beneficial insects.
4. Create a bean teepee to grow climbing plants like beans, peas or cucumbers, providing a fun and educational activity.
5. Organise a fun nature scavenger hunt to explore the garden and identify different plants, mini beasts, insects, and other natural elements.

I was once abducted by aliens. They made me wash my hands, clean my room, and eat my vegetables... turns out I was on the mothership!

Mark Cowley,  
Grounds Ranger

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### HAMBLE PLAYERS: MEET THE TEAM

This month, we thought we’d tell you about our Chairman, Tim Hughes.



#### Tell me a bit about yourself

I’m Tim Hughes and I moved back to Hamble about 15 years ago. I’m a hairdresser in the village and Chairman of Hamble Players.

#### When and why did you join Hamble Players?

In 2015 I got to know Kay Baker, who is still the President, in the hairdressers. She put me under quite a lot of pressure to audition for Alice in Wonderland and I was cast as the white rabbit.

#### What are your key memories of your time with Hamble Players?

Learning how to learn lines again! It had been a long time since I’d done any amateur dramatics and there’s a knack with the old muscle memory. There are so many other things, I could go on for hours!

#### What benefits do you see of being a member?

As Chairman, I have a big input into what we deliver and, as we sit in the heart of the community, it’s especially important that our programme hits the mark.

#### What opportunities are there?

Lots and lots; from getting up on stage, technical lighting and sound, building sets, making costumes and props, stage management. Then, extremely important, is working with the front of house team looking after our wonderful customers.

#### What challenges do you see for us in the future?

Where the group is located. We no longer have an additional hut for rehearsal or storage and our audience numbers are growing. I will be looking to work with the Parish Council and Local Authorities to find a venue that we can set up for the next 80 years.

#### Why would you recommend joining us?

You’ll never have a time like it! It’s fun, it’s stressful, it’s entertaining, but most of all it will give you a very positive thing to do in life. It’s wonderful to be a member of a group of people, especially a group of creative people. Come on down and join us!

Back in 2019, Hamble Hounds raised funds to sponsor a Canine Partners assistance dog – and were thrilled to be invited to name her. Naturally, we chose the name Hamble!



Today, Hamble is thriving in her role and has formed a wonderful partnership with her owner, Kelsey. Hamble supports Kelsey with daily tasks like picking up dropped items, carrying her crutch, helping with shoes and socks, and even loading the washing machine. Incredibly, she has also shown signs of being able to predict medical episodes – a skill she’s now receiving further training in. Kelsey describes Hamble as life-changing: a loyal companion and a constant support.

To continue supporting this vital work, Hamble Hounds will be running a Fun Dog Show at the Big Eat event at Royal Victoria Country Park on (Bank Holiday) Monday 26 May. All proceeds will go to Canine Partners, the charity that trains assistance dogs to support adults with physical disabilities, empowering them to live more independent lives.

Come along for a day of fun, furry friends, and fundraising – we hope to see you there!

### PREPARE TO BE BOWLED OVER AT FOLLAND BOWLS CLUB

Have you ever thought of giving bowling a go? Hamble has a bowling green, so if it is something that interests you, why not give it a try?

We are a well-established bowls club and are situated in Kings Avenue. If you joined, you would also be eligible to join Folland Sports & Social Club. We are always looking for new players and if you fancy trying it, then why not pop into the club on any Monday evening, from 6pm, where there will be someone on hand to show you the ropes. We have woods available for you to try.

The only stipulation is that you wear flat soled shoes and sensible clothing. You may even get a cuppa! If you would like further information, please contact Joan Fitzgibbon, 01489 564969, joanfitzgibbon252@gmail.com. We hope to hear from you!

## UPDATE FROM ST. ANDREW'S

We have enjoyed some fabulous weather recently and over the Easter period we also enjoyed some wonderful services at St Andrews, Hamble, and St Edwards, Netley, led by our vicar Rev. Hayley Richens.

At a service at St Edward's on Good Friday we had a recall of reflections from some of the people who were responsible for condemning Jesus to death on the cross. On Easter Sunday at a service at St Andrew's we recalled the moment when Jesus arose from the tomb 3 days later. Both services were well attended with St Andrew's being packed on Easter Sunday. It was wonderful to see the church so full.

Why not make a note in your diary to come along to our Sunday services at 10am at both churches: on Thursdays at 10am at St Andrew's, and on Fridays at 9.30am at St Edward's. You will be made very welcome by Rev. Hayley and her ministry team.

## HAMBLE FLOWER CLUB

Our May Club meeting, on Monday 12 May, will be a hands-on session where we'll be creating Lonely Bouquets in jam jars to distribute around the local area. Members will be making a wonderful variety of arrangements... will YOU be one of the lucky ones to find one? If you do, we'd love to hear from you!

Our popular Floral Classes are back! These short courses will be held at the Roy Underdown Pavilion, with the first session starting on Monday 19 May, 1pm-3.45pm. Further sessions will follow on Monday 16 June and Monday 21 July. The cost for non-members is £40 for all three sessions. Spaces have been snapped up quickly, and we only have a couple left. If you've ever wanted to learn the basics of flower arranging, this course is perfect for you!

We're a friendly bunch, so if you're interested in joining any of our meetings or have any questions, please contact us at [info.hambleflowerclub@gmail.com](mailto:info.hambleflowerclub@gmail.com). We meet on the second 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

*Comrades*  
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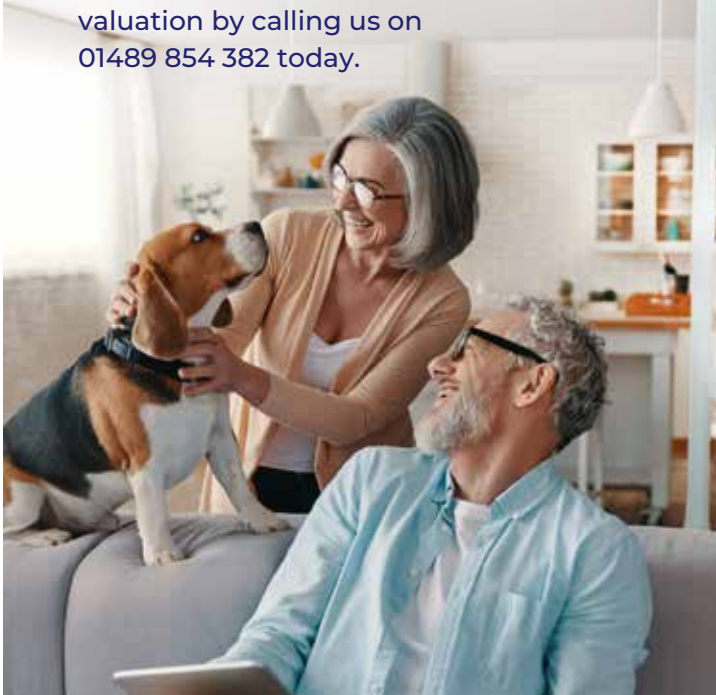
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The advertisement features a smartphone in the foreground displaying the app logo, which consists of a red star inside a circle with the words 'PIZZA PROPAGANDA'. The background shows a pizza being cooked in a pan with steam rising from it. The overall theme is 'revolution' and 'takeaway'.

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**L** | LEADERS

## HAMBLE LADIES GROUP

SIGN4FUN are a group of ladies who sing along to popular songs while also 'signing' at the same time. These lovely ladies, led by Catherine Hallam, came along to our meeting on Tuesday 8 April.

Catherine explained that they were a group of hearing ladies who had joined the group to help raise money for various charities. The money they raise is to support the Deaf Children's Society and for training hearing dogs for deaf people.

It was fascinating to sit and listen to them sing whilst 'signing' and quite emotional too. After a while there were quite a few of our members joining in with the signing. There was a variety of music including 'Any Dream will Do', the Buddy Holly classic 'That'll Be the Day', an Abba compilation, Sweet Caroline, plus a few others, before ending with 'Amazing Grace'. It was 'amazing' to watch and listen.

There are two methods of 'signing': the British Sign Language which Sign4Fun use and 'Speak Sign English'

Well, Easter finally arrived bringing some much welcome sunshine. To complement this, Bobby and Lorraine produced a spectacular window display of Easter hats which looked absolutely beautiful. Well done as always ladies.

As you may know, we have been raising funds to help towards the legal costs involved in fighting the appeal from Cemex to quarry Hamble Airfield. On 5 April, we held a very well-attended coffee morning and were pleased to welcome both Emma Westmacott and Paul Holmes. Both spoke passionately about their ongoing commitment to fighting against the destruction of our Airfield. In total, with the bring and buy sale, coffee morning, and donations handed into The Mercury, we raised an incredible £1640 which has been passed onto the Hamble Peninsular Residents Group. Thank you to everyone who contributed towards this.

On 11 April we had a storytime session in the morning, plus our Easter craft session in the afternoon – some very creative bonnets were made together with lots of other Easter goodies. Fun was had by all.

Pop in and see how the garden is coming along. Jan is working very hard to keep on top of things which is certainly reaping rewards.

Keep a check on our Facebook page and posters around the village to see what is happening at The Hub.



(SSE). Catherine told us that since 2002 a total of £25,000 had been raised for their chosen charities. A lovely afternoon which was thoroughly enjoyed by all our ladies.

Our next meeting is Tuesday 13 May when we have Peter Marcham coming along to talk to us about Bletchley Park. Why not join us? Don't forget your mugs! 2pm, The Priory Centre, Hamble Church. You will be most welcome.

Bobby Conduit, 023 8045 3626



## HAMBLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

With the current Cemex planning appeal to extract gravel from the former Airfield underway, it was thought it would be useful to tell those who did not know Hamble when the airfield was operational some background about it.

In the First World War the Avro company constructed an aircraft factory and airfield on the site of today's Ensign Way industrial park. By 1926 this airfield had become too small for the larger aeroplanes being built at that time, so Avro bought two hundred acres of land to the west of Satchell Lane to form a new larger airfield. This land had been the farm fields worked by Satchell inhabitants in the previous centuries.

In 1931 Air Service Training (AST) took over the airfield to train pilots and became known as Britain's Air University. The College of Air Training purchased the AST facilities and airfield in 1960 to train pilots for the National Airlines BOAC and BEA, which were later to become British Airways.

In 1982, the College of Air Training was sold to Hamble Airfield Properties Ltd who continued to train civil and military pilots. Two years later a receiver was called in and the College's aircraft and equipment were auctioned off.

The land was later sold to a developer, Ideal Homes now part of Persimmon, who was allowed to build where there were buildings (brown field site) but not on the airfield.

The last Society's meeting was very successful with a capacity audience to hear Ian Underdown's illustrated talk, including videos, of the magnificent Hamble River's Classic Superyachts. It was obvious that it was very much enjoyed by those present.

The next meeting will be on 5 June when Ray Smout will give the second part of his talk about 'My Life as Hamble's Policeman' in the 1970s. More details about his popular and humorous talk will be in the next newsletter.

## UPCOMING DATES

### Upcoming Parish Council Meetings at Roy Underdown Pavilion

#### Asset Committee Meeting

Tuesday 6 May, 7pm

#### Annual Council Meeting (AGM)

Monday 12 May, 6pm

#### Full Council Meeting

Monday 12 May, 7pm

#### Planning Committee Meeting

Tuesday 27 May, 7pm

### Hamble Spring Festival

**3 May**  
10am - 3pm

At the Foreshore Car Park.

### Early May Bank Holiday

**5 May**

### VE Day 80

**8 May**

### Bursledon, Hamble & Hound Memory Cafe

**14 May**  
2pm - 3.30pm

At Netley Court Care Home.

### The Big Eat Festival

**24-26 May**

At Royal Victoria Country Park.

### Summer Garden Party

**25 May**  
10am - 12pm

At River Rat.

### Spring Bank Holiday

**26 May**

### Half Term

**26 - 30 May**

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