



Wheatear at Hamble Point and Stonechat at Hamble Common (Photos from Peter Hyde).

Share your pet or Hamble photos for us to include in future newsletters! Send them to us via Facebook, or email them to danielle@smartmarketinguk.com

WELCOME TO YOUR LATEST NEWSLETTER!

Christmas is here again, and with it the familiar feeling that another year has passed faster than the one before. There is always plenty happening in Hamble, but this year has felt busier than most.

I would like to begin by thanking everyone who attended the Full Council meeting at the Royal Southern Yacht Club on 10 November. Almost 300 residents joined us – an extraordinary turnout and a clear demonstration of how strongly this community cares about the future of the village. It was evident in the room that nobody – resident or Councillor – wishes to see a quarry on our doorstep. However, when decisions involve larger costs, the Parish Council has a responsibility to consider every option carefully and give space for all voices to be heard.

As outlined in our previous newsletter, the Council was weighing two possible approaches: to continue with a legal challenge to the Planning Inspector's decision, or to focus resources on monitoring Cemex closely to hold them to the planning conditions imposed. After listening to residents, reviewing the legal advice, and reflecting on the strength of feeling across the parish, the Council resolved to continue with the legal challenge. You can read more about that decision on page 2.

Hamble Airfield was not the only subject discussed that evening. The Council also received three resignations: Trevor Dann (Vice Chair), Michelle Nicholson (Functions Working Group Lead), and Tony Moody. All three have given many years of dedicated service to both the community and the Council, and I want to take this opportunity to thank them for the time, energy and commitment they have shown throughout their terms. Each

has played an important part not only in opposing the quarry but across a wide range of Council projects.

Their departure creates an opportunity for others. Perhaps you were one of the 300 residents at the November meeting and found yourself thinking you would like to be more involved in shaping decisions in the future? If you are passionate about supporting village projects and improving life for the whole community, we would be delighted to hear from you. More information can be found on page 3.

It is also the time of year when many of us pause and look back. The Airfield Inquiry in April and June, and the ongoing legal challenge, have dominated much of our attention. But the year has brought plenty of positives too. The new play area at Mount Pleasant has been a pleasure to develop, and with equipment for younger children on the way, it promises to be a wonderful space for families for many years. This was also the year of our inaugural Community Awards – a truly uplifting evening celebrating those who quietly make an enormous difference to village life. I am already looking forward to next year's event.

In the meantime, I hope to see many of you at the Christmas Carols service in The Square on Christmas Eve, and would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Cllr Chris Jones, Chair



PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS



HAMBLE AIRFIELD QUARRY: PARISH COUNCIL VOTES TO PURSUE LEGAL CHALLENGE

Over recent weeks, the proposed quarry at Hamble Airfield has shifted from being a long-standing threat to becoming a very real prospect. Following the Planning Inspector's decision, the quarry will now proceed unless a legal challenge is made. This meant that the Parish Council was faced with the decision to pay for a Statutory Review or accept the Inspector's decision and focus on monitoring and mitigation.

For more than a decade, residents, businesses, schools, local groups, and the Parish Council have worked tirelessly to keep the quarry at bay. The collective effort has been immense, and the strength of community feeling was clear at the Full Council meeting held at the Royal Southern Yacht Club on Monday 10 November. The turnout was exceptional, and we would particularly like to thank everyone who spoke on the night – your contributions were articulate, thoughtful and genuinely helped inform the debate.

The Two Options

Ahead of the meeting, two options were set out for consideration:

Option 1 – Challenge the Decision

The only way to stop the quarry is through a Statutory Review – a legal process that looks at whether the Planning Inspector made an important mistake in law.

- A Statutory Review is a technical legal case, run by lawyers, and decided by a judge.
- It has two stages:
 - Stage 1: Convince a judge there's an "arguable case" – likely cost about £25,000 (under £15 per household, this financial year).
 - Stage 2: If allowed to proceed, argue the full case in court – a further £30,000 (under £20 per household, probably next year).
- If successful, the original inquiry would be re-opened and reviewed.
- If unsuccessful, the quarry would proceed, and funds would be needed to ensure that Cemex meets their commitments and to protect the village.

Our legal team believes there may be an arguable case – mainly around ecological issues that possibly were not handled correctly.

Option 2 – Accept and Monitor

If it was decided not to pursue the legal route, we would turn our focus to protecting Hamble's interests while the quarry is developed and run. That would mean:

- Monitoring traffic, air quality, noise, and safety.
- Keeping a close eye on what is used to backfill the site.
- Making sure Cemex complies with every planning condition.

The Council's Decision

The Parish Council has fought very hard against putting a quarry at the heart of our village and remains firmly opposed to the planning application. However, as a local authority, and as part of the democratic process, we are obliged to give due consideration to every decision which requires allocating public funds.

After considering the legal advice provided, the feedback from the community, and the likely costs involved, the Parish Council voted to proceed with Option 1 – to continue with the legal challenge and pursue a Statutory Review.

Next Steps

We can confirm that:

- Funds have been approved for the Statutory Review process.
- A dedicated committee of Parish Councillors has now been formed to oversee the legal challenge and has met to begin its work.
- A working group, including members of the Hamble Peninsular Residents' Group (HPRG), has been established.
- The legal team has been instructed to proceed, and the High Court claim prepared based on the comprehensive legal advice received.

Further Updates

More information will be shared as soon as we are able. Updates will continue through the Parish Council website, noticeboards, social media channels and future newsletters.

Thank you once again to everyone who has contributed time, expertise or support. The Hamble community has shown terrific unity throughout this long process, and that collective resolve remains vital as we enter the next stage. **2**

UPDATE FROM YOUR COUNCIL: WHAT WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON

- The village Christmas tree was delivered on Monday 24 November and the lights installed. The switch-on will take place on Sunday 30 November.
- Seven of the older-style benches at the Foreshore (next to the Beach Hut) have now been removed. These will be replaced with the newer Baltimore bench design, offering a more durable and consistent look for the area. The new benches require concrete footings, so installation will take place as soon as conditions allow. We have contacted all plaque holders affected by these changes, but if you have any queries, please get in touch.
- Five of the older-style benches will be re-used elsewhere in the village, with two already installed at Westfield Common and Roy Underdown Pavilion.



- The Grounds team has started winter planting at the Foreshore.

DINGHY PARK STORAGE 2026

2026 Dinghy Park permits will be on sale from 1 January. The cost this year is £215, and all applications must be made online, with priority given to Hamble residents. <https://hambleparishcouncil.gov.uk/dinghy-storage/>



If you currently have a space, please reapply as soon as possible. We will endeavour to keep you in the dinghy park and in the same spot but cannot guarantee permits. Spaces will be allocated by the end of January.

If you have any questions about this service, please contact the Parish Office.

Do you have skills and insights you want to share? Do you enjoy being part of a team – helping to get things done?

We currently have three vacancies on the Council and invite applications from Hamble residents who would like to get involved and help represent the views of our village. If you have a few hours to spare each month and would like to contribute to your community, why not consider becoming a Councillor? The time commitment is typically at least 5 hours a month and potentially more depending on how much you want to get involved. Importantly you are joining a team and should enjoy working with other people – including other councillors, the staff team, residents, and other organisations.

The deadline for applications is Monday 5 January 2026, and you can find more information here: <https://bit.ly/3Umbroj>. If shortlisted, you will be invited to the Full Council meeting at 7pm on Monday 12 January 2026 where the Council will select the candidates.



HAMBLE LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE SERVICE

We launched the Hamble Living Christmas Tree Service last year, and it was warmly received by the community. Unfortunately, the recurring risk of drought and hosepipe bans means we have had to place the initiative on hold for the time being. Sustaining newly planted trees in these conditions is challenging, and we do not want to risk poor growth or unnecessary loss. We will keep the situation under review and explore potential alternatives that may offer a more sustainable approach for the future.

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE: CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS



The Parish Office will be open until 1pm on Tuesday 23 December, after which it will close for the Christmas period. It will reopen at 9am on Tuesday 6 January.

On behalf of the Parish Council Councillors and team, we would like to thank you all for your support this year, and to wish you a very Merry Christmas.



Season's Greetings, Hamble Habitants.

I recently bought an original Van Gogh coffee table... I know it's original because there's a bit of veneer missing.

The grounds team has been busy over the autumn clearing the masses of fallen leaves from pathways around the village. When they're not landing on the footpaths, the falling leaves settle on the ground like a carpet of goodness.

Fallen leaves provide vital benefits for wildlife, soil health and natural pest control. They act as a protective habitat for invertebrates, which in turn feed birds, and provide shelter for hibernating animals such as hedgehogs. As they decompose, leaves enrich the soil with organic matter and nutrients, and a layer of leaves can act as a natural mulch, suppressing weeds and retaining moisture. However, we need to clear leaves from footpaths around Hamble because wet, compacted leaves pose a major slip hazard. They can also block drains, leading to localised flooding.

With the arrival of the crisp winter air, it's that time of year again when decorations go up and plans take shape for Christmas and the New Year. By the time you receive this newsletter, the Christmas tree and lights in The Square should be up and lit, and arrangements for the Carols on Christmas Eve well advanced. That's right – the festive season is here again already. Don't the years seem to fly by these days? Most of us love Christmas; I know I do. It's a season filled with excitement, magical stories, sparkling lights and family reunions, and with the new year approaching, it's the perfect moment to look back and reflect on some of the positive things the Parish Council and the grounds team have achieved over the past year.

One significant improvement is the new children's play area at Mount Pleasant (with more equipment still to come). It is being thoroughly enjoyed and well used by many, especially local children on weekday mornings before school, which is great to see.

Mount Pleasant Pavilion has also received some attention, with the dangerous, derelict lean-to storage area at the rear now demolished, the leaking roof repaired, and the changing rooms given a few fresh coats of paint.

The Parish Council's next and final phase of replacing the remaining tired and weather-worn benches on the Foreshore has now begun. The first bench's new home is at the Royal Southern Yacht Club end of the Foreshore quay, in place of the former bin storage shed, and sits in the perfect spot to watch daily activity on and around the river. Weather permitting, the rest of the replacement benches should be in place by Christmas.



The grounds team, along with the company installing the new benches, Inspired Projects, have managed to salvage five of the old benches and hope to upcycle them at various locations around the village – so keep an eye out for an upcycled bench appearing near you soon!

Finally, NASA is planning to launch a satellite to apologise to any visiting aliens we may have offended during their travels. They're calling it Apollo G.

Mark Cowley, Grounds Ranger

FORESHORE CLOCK PERMITS

Each year the Council sells permits for the Foreshore Car Park which allow permit-holders 4 hours of free parking, 365 days a year. 200 permits are available to residents of Hamble on a first come, first serve basis.

The annual parking permit charge for 2026 will be £25 – less than 7p per day. Any changes to the hourly parking charges in The Square will be in line with Eastleigh Borough Council's charges.

Parking permits will be on sale online from Monday 1 December at hambleparishcouncil.gov.uk/clock-permit. Permits will be available to collect from the Parish Office from Tuesday 2 December. Unfortunately, we are unable to post permits.



The office is open on Tuesday and Friday, from 9am to 1pm, and Wednesday and Thursday from noon to 5pm. Please use the front door when visiting the office.

HAMBLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

At the Society's recent meeting on Hamble Past and Present, a new booklet of the same title was launched, showing how Hamble looked years ago compared with the present day. It joins the Society's popular series of local history booklets and was very well received, with its illustrations proving particularly appreciated.

For anyone with a connection to Hamble and an interest in its history, the Society's new booklet offers another informative and enjoyable read. It covers notable old houses, shops, doctors' surgeries and schools. Changes in transport are also highlighted, including buses, the railway, the ferry and the airfield, along with



other significant parts of Hamble and important marine locations.

Why not send a copy to a relative or friend over the Christmas period? Over the years, people have found that sending one of the History Society's booklets with a Christmas card makes a welcome gift. The new booklet is available from the Post Office at Coronation Parade for £4.

Other titles available at the Post Office include Hamble in the Past, Hamble River – A Glimpse from the Past, Boats of the Hamble River, Hamble Pubs, Aviation at Hamble, Hamble Pictures from the Past and Hamble River Sailing Club 1919–2019.

The Society's next meeting will be held on Thursday 5 February 2026. Hamble Valley guide James Arnott will be giving a talk on the television series Howard's Way, which began 40 years ago and was based on the Hamble River.

Further details will appear in the next Village Newsletter. For more information about the Society, please contact the Secretary, Margaret Greenfield, on 023 8045 4373.

HAMBLE PLAYERS: WELCOME TO TWO NEW MEMBERS

We're delighted to welcome two new members to Hamble Players: Mark & Tammy. Let's find out more about them!



How did you discover Hamble Players?

We watched the "Black Coffee" production and were so impressed by the quality and the team's enthusiasm that we couldn't wait to join! Everyone has welcomed us with open arms, and it's been such a great experience.

What inspired you to become a member?

In 1999, we happened to join the same amateur dramatic group and often played a husband and wife duo. After taking a break to raise our girls, we're excited to return to the stage now that they're all grown up!

What has been your most cherished moment so far?

In "We'll Meet Again", I had the honour of carrying the plaque with the names of the brave folks from Hamble who lost their lives during WWII. It was such a heartfelt moment that I'll always cherish.

Which productions are you eagerly anticipating?

Tammy: I'm in a comedy duo in "Dick Whittington"! It's my first time doing pantomime, and I'm having such a blast.

Mark: I'm really excited for my second pantomime. Last time, I was the rear end of a camel, so I'm looking forward to a talking part!

What advice would you share with someone eager to start a new hobby?

If you're considering a new hobby, like performing onstage, working behind the scenes, or front of house hospitality, go for it! Dive in and enjoy the fun of telling stories!



To find out more about joining Hamble Players, go to <https://hambleplayers.co.uk/get-involved/>



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
✉ enquiries@accountably.co.uk

☎ 023 8045 3907



HAMBLE LE RICE FLOWER CLUB

Tickets are on sale now for our open Christmas Demonstration "Glitter, Glitz & Glamour" by Gill McGregor on 8 December. You could be taking home one of the wonderful designs which are raffled at the end of the demo.

Tickets are £10 for members and £15 for visitors. Contact Jeanette Smart on 07813 362997 or email info.hambleflowerclub@gmail.com for more information.

Our next meeting on 12 January at 1.30pm at Hamble Memorial Hall will be a social afternoon. Why not come along and see what we do? All are welcome. There will be tea and cake!



We are a friendly bunch. If you are interested in coming along to any of our meetings or have any questions, please contact us at info.hambleflowerclub@gmail.com. We look forward to welcoming you.

Rosie Skeats, Chairman

HAMBLE LADIES GROUP

Another full house for our meeting, and every month we are delighted to welcome new members and visitors. There was a change to the November



programme, and we were entertained by the Stokes Bay Strummers – a group of twelve ukulele players and singers who gave us a fantastic afternoon. Their set included an assortment of music ranging from the 1950s Hello Mary Lou, through country and western, rock and roll, and a selection of Beatles songs, along with many others. They also included a few Christmas favourites, and as a tribute to Armistice Day they played the 1940s classic Chattanooga Choo Choo. They performed for over an hour and had us tapping our toes and singing along. It was a wonderful way to spend a dreary November afternoon, and they certainly lifted our spirits.

Well, it's that time of year again when Christmas is on our minds. As always, we are holding a free children's craft workshop on Saturday 20 December from 2pm to 4pm. There's no need to book – just come along for some creative festive fun. Christmas baubles, angels, biscuits, crackers, shells, pom poms and plenty more will be on offer. We even encourage the grown-ups to join in as well, so please save the date and come along. Every activity is free; we simply ask for a donation towards drinks and biscuits.

It has been a really productive year at The Hub, with coffee mornings raising funds for local organisations, guest speakers, Hamble Valley Health offering advice, storytelling and craft sessions, many new members, and the addition of our new crochet group on Thursdays (10am to 12pm) and chess on Fridays (10.30am to 12pm). Just a reminder that we are a safe community space open to everyone. You don't need to be part of any group – we welcome people dropping in for a friendly chat or a quiet moment to sit and relax on their own, with the bonus of being able to take home some of our excellent books and puzzles.

Winter can be a long and lonely time, so please be assured that a warm, friendly welcome from our wonderful team of volunteers is always waiting for you at The Hub.

The Stokes Bay Strummers were formed in 2010 and have since performed 532 times and raised over £35,000 for various charities. This year their chosen charity is the St. Faith's Hub, Gosport which supports the local Gosport community.

Well, I have to mention it I'm afraid – yes, the C word. Our Christmas lunch is on Tuesday 9 December at the RAF Yacht Club, Hamble – 12.30pm for 1pm. I look forward to seeing everyone there (no mugs needed).

Our new year starts with our AGM on Tuesday 13 January 2026, 2pm, Priory Centre, Hamble. The Bursledon Bells will be coming along to entertain us afterwards with their bell ringing. Why not join us?

And yes, Happy Christmas to everyone. It is never too early!

Bobby Conduit, 02380 453626

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH AT THE PRIORY CENTRE, ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, HAMBLE

For several years we have held a lunch on Christmas Day in the Priory Centre for those who may not be able, for many reasons, to spend the day with others. This year is no exception; if you would like to share lunch and company, please come along. You would be made very welcome.

We have a number of seats at our Christmas lunch table which we would love to share with you.

We invite you to come and join us and enjoy good company, friendly faces, and a lunch of traditional Christmas fare. We have our wonderful team of volunteers who are ready and waiting to provide a wonderful Christmas Day lunch and hospitality.

There is easy access for all, with no steps and everything on one level.

Places are restricted in number, so pre-booking is essential. Transport to and from the Priory Centre can be provided on request. Please join us... we would love to see you!

For further information, please contact Kay on 07866 097789, 023 8045 4745, or kay007@ntlworld.com.

It was wonderful to see St Andrew's Church full for the Remembrance service on Sunday 9 November. There was also a good attendance for the War Memorial service on 11 November.

Christmas is almost upon us and there are some changes to the services this year, so please check the times and locations to avoid missing your favourite event.

- Saturday 20 December, 4.30pm: Crib Service at St Andrew's Church, Hamble
- Wednesday 24 December, 4pm: Christingle Service at St Edward's, Netley
- Wednesday 24 December, 6pm: Carols in Hamble Square
- Wednesday 24 December, 11pm: Midnight Communion at St Andrew's Church, Hamble
- Thursday 25 December, at 10.30am: Sung Eucharist at St Andrew's Church, Hamble

In the New Year, starting on Sunday 25 January at 4pm at St Andrew's, and then on the fourth Sunday of every month, we will be launching a new All Age Worship service. This will be suitable for everyone, especially those who attend church occasionally or who are exploring Christianity for the first time. It will be a contemporary-style service with sung worship, craft and drama. After the service, tea and cake will be served in the Priory Centre. All are welcome.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

UPCOMING DATES



Upcoming Parish Council Meetings at Roy Underdown Pavilion

Full Council Meeting
Monday 8 December, 7pm
Monday 12 January, 7pm

Planning Committee Meeting
Monday 22 December, 7pm
Monday 26 January, 7pm

Asset Management Committee Meeting
Monday 5 January, 7pm

Christmas Lights Switch On

30 November

Hamble Christmas Market

11 December
4pm – 7pm

At Hamble High Street/Hamble Square. An evening of festive shopping with local craft & art stalls.



Walk & Talk Hamble

17 December
10.30am – 12pm

Meet at the Mercury Hub.
Book: <https://bit.ly/3W59v3l>

Carols In The Square

24 December
6pm

Christmas Half Term

20 December – 4 January 2026

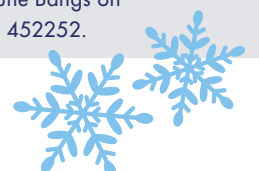
Carols By Candlelight At Other Churches

9 December, 7.30pm
At St Mary's, Hound

10 December, 7.30pm
At St Mary's, Hound

21 December, 6pm
At St Edward's, Netley

Admission at St Mary's by free ticket only. Tickets are available from June Bangs on 02380 452252.



CHRISTMAS



CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD – FOUR FESTIVE CURIOSITIES

Christmas might be a single date on the calendar, but the ways people celebrate it are wonderfully varied. Here are four cheerful and slightly quirky traditions from across the globe:

1. Germany – Many towns host Christmas markets so cosy and twinkly you could wander in for “just a look” and leave with a mug of mulled wine, a wooden nutcracker and half a kilo of gingerbread.
2. Iceland – Instead of one Santa, Iceland has thirteen Yule Lads, each with his own mischievous personality. Children leave out shoes, hoping for sweets... not a potato.
3. Japan – A 1970s advert convinced the nation that Christmas Eve is best celebrated with a festive bucket of KFC. You have to order weeks ahead.
4. Mexico – Families take part in Las Posadas, a nine-night candlelit procession. It ends in parties with piñatas – always a hit with the children.

DINE
With Cocktails & Wine
JAN - FEB 2026

2 COURSES £21.50PP | 3 COURSES £26.50PP
Both options include a glass of wine or cocktail - whether you prefer no, low, or loads of alcohol.

LUNCH
All Venues (Mon To Fri)

DINNER
Boathouse Swanwick (Thurs & Fri)
The Bugle & The White Horse (Mon - Fri)

Start 2026 on a high note! SCAN TO BOOK

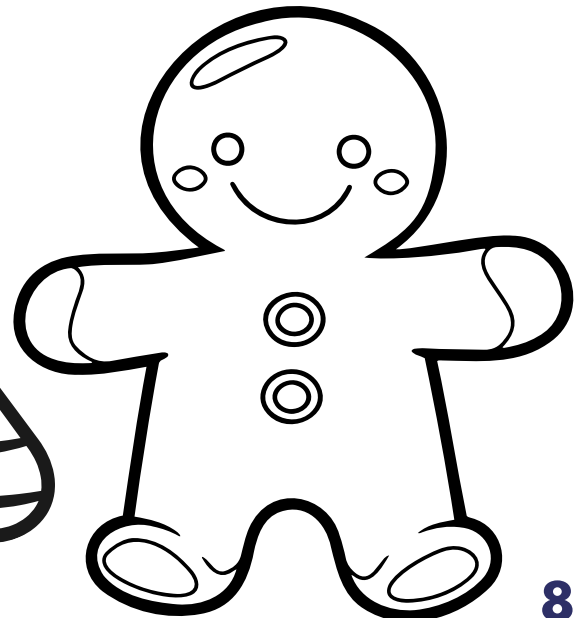
THE BUGLE
HISTORIC WATERSIDE PUB

Boathouse
SWANWICK

Kimbridge Barn
TEA ROOMS, CAFE, EVENTS

THE WHITE HORSE
PUBS, CELLARS & KITCHENS

COLOUR US IN AND CUT US OUT FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE!



HAMBLE LE RICE
Christmas Eve
CAROLS IN THE SQUARE

DECEMBER 24TH
6 PM til 6.45 PM

HAMBLE SQUARE CAR PARK

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE START OF CHRISTMAS AND RAISE FUNDS FOR LOCAL CHARITIES