



Redpoll, Robin, Swans at The Foreshore, Sanderling and Common Buzzard (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!

A rather belated Happy New Year to you all. The last newsletter already feels some time ago, and a great deal has taken place in Hamble since we last shared an update.

Looking back to December, I'd like to begin by thanking Carol for organising the Christmas carols on Christmas Eve. It was wonderful to see so many people come together, and the event continues to grow year on year. My thanks also go to the children of Hamble Primary School, who made decorations for the community Christmas tree and helped to create such a warm and festive atmosphere on the evening.

As we move into 2026, the Parish Council has been progressing a number of projects and consultations.

If you regularly use the play area at Mount Pleasant, you will have noticed the new toddler equipment installed at the end of January. This follows the refurbishment of the existing equipment earlier in 2025 and has been made possible through a grant from Eastleigh Borough Council. We are pleased to be able to enhance play provision for younger children and hope the new equipment will be enjoyed by local families for many years to come.

We have also launched a consultation on the possible introduction of a 3G pitch in Hamble, funded by the Football Foundation and Eastleigh Borough Council. At this early stage, the aim is to understand whether there is appetite within the community for a 3G pitch and, if so, where residents would prefer it to be located. Your views are important in helping to guide any next steps, and further information, along with a link to the survey, can be found on page 5.

In parallel, the Council has been preparing for the wider programme of local government reorganisation. As part

of this process, Eastleigh Borough Council will no longer exist, and responsibility for a range of green spaces, buildings and facilities will need to transfer to new owners. We are currently reviewing which assets might be suitable for the Parish Council to take on. While local management can bring benefits through greater understanding of community needs, this must be carefully considered alongside the long-term financial and operational responsibilities involved. We are therefore taking a measured approach and reviewing all options thoroughly before making any decisions.

Alongside this work, we have been setting the Council's budget for 2026/27. This year's process has been particularly challenging, reflecting both the potential asset transfers and the ongoing legal matters relating to Hamble Airfield. At the Full Council meeting in November, residents expressed strong support for pursuing a Statutory Review. We are now planning carefully to ensure that any associated costs are managed in a responsible and transparent way.

In terms of the Statutory Review, we have formally lodged our challenge and are awaiting a response. The next stage will be for a judge to decide whether the challenge can proceed. We expect to hear within 2-3 months.

Finally, we are currently seeking three new parish councillors to join the Council. If you are interested in contributing to decisions that affect Hamble and helping to shape the village's future, further details can be found on page 2.

Thank you, as always, to everyone who makes Hamble such a lovely place to live and work.

Cllr Chris Jones, Chair

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

WE'RE LOOKING FOR 3 NEW PARISH COUNCILLORS

Closing date for applications: 5 February

Hamble Parish Council is seeking three new parish councillors to help shape the future of our village.

If you are interested in the role and would like to contribute to the decisions made by the Council on behalf of Hamble residents, please apply on or before Thursday 5 February.

Why become a Parish Councillor?

If you've never been to a parish council meeting, you may assume that parish councillors are a group of (probably older) people who meet now and then in a draughty village hall. This is not the case!

Hamble Parish Council comprises a mix of councillors from different backgrounds, with different interests and of different ages, all committed to volunteering their time to making Hamble a better place to live and work.

When something 'big' has or is about to happen, people in the community tend to turn to the Parish Council for support and guidance. One such example is the ongoing planning application for gravel extraction at Hamble Airfield.

As a parish councillor, you become someone your community will look to for help, guidance, and support – a community leader with the ability to influence decisions for the benefit of the people you serve. Seeing your community change for the better because of decisions you have helped to make will give you a real sense of achievement and pride.

You can find out more about our commitment to Hamble here: <https://bit.ly/3Umbroj>



Parish Council duties

Hamble Parish Council has 12 councillors. The duties and functions of a parish council are many and varied, so being a parish councillor is an interesting and rewarding position to hold.

We meet once a month as a full Council (except August). Meetings may last up to 2.5 hours, depending on the agenda. In addition, there is a Planning Committee that meets monthly and an Asset Management Committee that meets every second month.

You are not expected to be involved in all committees. There are also other areas of responsibility in which you might want to play a role – such as allotments, the dinghy park, human resources (our team), finance and the budget, or local footpaths.

There is also an Annual Parish Meeting, to which all village residents are invited. Residents can raise concerns directly with the Council, through a councillor, or via the Clerk. If matters are not the responsibility of the Parish Council, the Clerk can bring them to the attention of the appropriate authority.

Time commitment

In addition to regular meetings, some councillors take on additional duties as chairs of committees or working groups, or represent the Council on external bodies. This could take anywhere between 3 and 10 hours per month, depending on how involved you would like to be.

Who should apply?

You do not need prior experience to become a parish councillor. We welcome applications from residents of all ages and backgrounds who care about Hamble and want to help make a positive difference in their community.

How to apply

Visit <https://bit.ly/3Umbroj> to find out more and to download an application form.



If you would like an informal conversation about the role before applying, please contact Helen, the Parish Clerk.

This is a chance to represent your community, develop new skills, and help shape the future of Hamble.

We would love to hear from you.

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

RANGER'S REMARKS

Happy New Year, Hamble Habitants.

I used some of my Christmas gift money to buy myself a deluxe first aid kit... I thought I'd treat myself.

A new year carries that unmistakable feeling of renewal, a chance to start again, to notice more and to reconnect with the world around us. After the rush and buzz of the festive season, there's a certain peace in slowing down. Now, as we reach the last winter month of February, the still-quiet ground begins to show signs that just beneath the surface, life continues to stir and new growth begins to emerge.

February on the grounds team is largely occupied by clearing large areas of bramble and trimming hedges. In every area that we clear, we aim to leave a wild section for wildlife to shelter and hibernate, etc., but generally it's a case of clearing as much as possible to allow the emerging spring flowering plants to be visible for everyone to enjoy, mindful that seeing spring blossoms makes people happy and promotes feelings of well-being. This work also includes the removal of several invasive species of trees and shrubs, and the planting of new native species of trees, shrubs, and flowers. The reason for this is to increase the variety of native trees to help establish a richer biodiversity, whilst also aiming to revive some of the local overgrown green spaces.

Native plants provide nectar for native pollinators, including bees, butterflies, and moths. They also provide protective shelter for many mammals. The native nuts, seeds, and fruits produced by these plants offer essential foods for all forms of wildlife.

LOOKING BACK AT CHRISTMAS IN HAMBLE

Although Christmas now feels like a distant memory, we'd like to take a moment to look back at a couple of lovely festive moments from December and to thank everyone who helped bring some Christmas cheer to the village.

A special thank you goes to the children from Hamble Primary School who created decorations for the community Christmas tree in Hamble Square. The Parish Council provided festive crafting kits, which the children used to make some fantastic creations for the tree. Their efforts

The beauty of spring flowers motivates people to get outdoors for walks, improving both physical and mental health. The local wildlife also greatly benefits.

An abundant variety of wildflowers supports local ecosystems and helps with natural pest resistance for crops, whilst also offering food and shelter for birds and insects.

In February, the days get noticeably longer, offering more sunshine hours than January, signalling frogs to start spawning, birds to begin pairing up, and early flowers like daffodils, snowdrops, aconites, and crocuses to start appearing.

Speaking of wildlife, insect acoustics as we know fall quiet during the cold winter months, with most sheltering away in all types of nooks and crannies, some as adults, others as eggs, larvae, or pupae.

One species that is still fairly active in the winter months is the Buff-tailed Bumblebee. If you listen carefully on a warm February day, you may be lucky enough to hear the rich, deep buzz of a queen as she takes to the air. Buff-tailed bumblebees are known as 'nectar robbers': if they come across a flower that is too deep for their tongue, they bite a hole at its base and suck out the nectar. Afterwards, other insects looking for nectar will also use this handy hole.



In other news, over the festive period I got hired at the thermometer factory. It was just a temp job though!

Until next time...

Mark Cowley, Estates Ranger

helped make Hamble Square feel particularly festive and were enjoyed by many residents and visitors throughout December.

You may also have seen the Christmas tree on Woodpecker Walk. The tree, which was planted near the bench earlier in the year by Altin and Mark, was decorated by residents in the lead-up to Christmas. It was lovely to see the community coming together to add festive touches and create a welcoming atmosphere along the walk.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making Hamble feel special in the run-up to Christmas.

BLUESTAR BUSES COMMUNITY FUND: SUPPORT FOR LOCAL GROUPS AND CAUSES

Hamble Parish Council would like to highlight a local funding opportunity that could benefit community groups, schools, charities and clubs in the area.

The Bluestar Buses Community Fund is now open for applications, providing support to local causes that need a helping hand. The fund is designed to back initiatives with monetary support, marketing assistance, free travel or even the use of a bus for a special event, offering up to £750 of support per round.

Applications are accepted three times a year — in January, May and October — giving local organisations multiple chances to benefit. A judging panel, including members of Bluestar's local management team, will assess applications and award support to successful applicants. Groups that miss out in one round are welcome to apply again in future rounds.

Applicants are asked to explain:

- who they are,
- what their organisation or project is,
- the type of support required, and
- the difference it would make to their cause.

The Community Fund could be a valuable resource for local efforts, big or small. If your group or organisation is planning activities this year and could benefit from support, please consider applying.

Full details and the application form are available on the Bluestar website: <https://bit.ly/4jYb9PE>



NEW CCTV FOR HAMBLE FORESHORE

We're pleased to share that Hamble Parish Council has been successful in securing a grant from the Police & Crime Commissioner to upgrade CCTV on the Foreshore.

This funding allows us to move ahead with the project, which will strengthen security in an area that has been the focus of Operation Aquatic – a multi-agency partnership involving Hampshire Police, the Marine Police Unit,

We're pleased to share that the new toddler play equipment at Mount Pleasant Play Area should now be installed and ready to enjoy, following its scheduled installation during the last week of January.

This new equipment has been delivered as a direct result of community consultation, alongside the successful award of additional grant funding from Eastleigh Borough Council. Following the wider refurbishment of the existing play area equipment earlier in 2025, this new funding gave us the opportunity to add new play provision specifically for younger children.

Last year, residents were invited to take part in a community vote to help choose the new equipment. We're grateful to everyone who took the time to share their views and feedback. The chosen option reflected a clear preference and has helped ensure the play area meets the needs of our local community.

We would like to thank residents for their patience during the installation works, and for your continued support while improvements are carried out to village facilities. Your feedback plays an important role in shaping how our local spaces develop.

We would also like to thank you all for your patience while waiting for repairs to the We Hopper. There has been a short delay due to the need for specialist parts, which have now been received. Repair works are scheduled to take place on 2 February, and we look forward to seeing this equipment back in use shortly.



Eastleigh Borough Council, Hamble River Harbour Authority and Hamble Parish Council. One of the group's priorities has been improving safety and tackling antisocial behaviour along the waterfront. The upgraded system will support this work and provide better coverage for both day-to-day monitoring and incident management. Further details, including installation timings, will be shared once confirmed.

Thank you to everyone involved in the bid and to our partners for their continued support.

FRIENDSHIP BENCH UNVEILED IN MEMORY OF RAY SEDGWICK

In January, we unveiled a new Friendship Bench on the Foreshore, dedicated to the memory of Ray Sedgwick, a much-loved local character whose life and work were inseparable from the River Hamble.

Ray, who passed away on 29 June 2025 aged 88, served our community as Hamble's ferryman for more than 60 years. Generations of residents, workers, and visitors were guided safely across the river by Ray, often in challenging conditions, always with good humour, warmth, and an unrivalled knowledge of the waterway. His presence on the Foreshore was a constant, and his contribution to village life left a lasting impression on all who knew him.



The Friendship Bench forms part of phase two of the Parish Council's Foreshore improvements, following requests from the community for a place to sit and pause. After Ray's passing, we felt it was only fitting that this bench should be dedicated to someone who gave so much of his life to the river and the people of Hamble.

A local designer was commissioned to create a personalised engraving for the bench, featuring the iconic Hamble Pink Ferry alongside the inscription "The Ray Sedgwick Friendship Bench". The project was funded through Developer Contributions from Eastleigh Borough Council's BHH Local Area Committee, ensuring the memorial both honours Ray's legacy and provides a lasting benefit to residents and visitors.

The bench was formally unveiled by Councillor Ian Underdown, a long-time friend of Ray's, who shared memories of Ray's life on the Foreshore and his extraordinary dedication to ferrying well into his eighties.

The Friendship Bench now stands as a permanent reminder of Ray's generosity, resilience, and commitment to Hamble – a place for people to stop, reflect, and remember a man who was truly part of the heart of the village.

HAVE YOUR SAY: NEW 3G PITCH FOR HAMBLE

Hamble is being considered as a location for a new 3G artificial pitch – and we want to hear your views.



The project is in its early stages, but your feedback will help guide the discussion. We'd particularly like to know which of two potential locations you would prefer: Mount Pleasant Recreation Ground or Hamble Club Football Club.

A 3G pitch can be used year-round whatever the weather, providing a high-quality facility for local football clubs, women's and girls' football, walking football, school sessions, disability-inclusive sport and other community activities.

We're working with Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC) and the Football Foundation on this project. If it goes ahead, it would be funded by EBC and the Football Foundation – at no cost to Hamble residents or the Parish Council.

Complete our short survey at: <https://bit.ly/3NWXAnm>

The survey closes on 6 February 2026. If you have any questions, please contact operations@hambleparishcouncil.gov.uk.



CORONATION PARADE POST OFFICE TOPPER

Back in the summer, the Hamble Hookers at the Hub began to crochet. Some were skilled, some had never crocheted before. Jan Knights supports the group with all things crochet! Teenagers joined the group in the summer holidays, and everyone is welcome!

Work on the Coronation Parade Post Office topper began in October, and the group met on 4 December to



unveil and assemble their creation with Postmaster Mitu proudly welcoming this new decoration to her Post Office front of house! More seasonal creations will follow with Easter being their next project!

COMMUNITY NEWS

UPDATE FROM HAMBLE LIFEBOAT

Hamble Lifeboat, one of the ten busiest lifeboat stations in the UK, responded to a wide range of incidents across the central Solent throughout November, underlining the constant readiness of its volunteer crew.

The month began with a 4am pager alert reporting a fire at a local Southampton marina. Although the crew prepared to launch, further information meant the situation was stood down – a reminder of how quickly incidents can change. Later the same day, the lifeboat launched to assist a vessel with engine trouble at the entrance to the River Hamble, ensuring the boat was safe before returning to station.

Night-time callouts continued during the month, including incidents involving vulnerable people near the water. In the

early hours of 17 November, the crew supported other emergency services on Southampton Water, resolving the situation through close coordination. Only hours later, the lifeboat launched again following concerns involving a fast passenger ferry.

Away from operational duties, crew, supporters, and villagers gathered at St Andrew's Church, Hamble, for the annual Service for the Sea. The well-attended service celebrated the lifeboat's history, recent work, and strong ties with the local community.

Looking ahead, Hamble Lifeboat faces the challenge of replacing two ageing vessels, including the recently retired Harry Childs. Fundraising and volunteers remain vital to keeping the station ready to respond day and night.

Scan the QR code to donate to Hamble Lifeboat.



UPDATE FROM THE MERCURY LIBRARY & COMMUNITY HUB

We start on a positive note in this first report for The Hub in 2026. During the last two weeks of January, and continuing through all of February, you will see a return of our successful bring and buy sale to raise funds for Hamble Peninsular Residents Group in the quest to make the powers that be see sense in their ridiculous proposal to turn Hamble Airfield into a quarry. This will end on 28 February with a coffee morning from 10am to midday. We need everyone's support with this, so please come along, find some bargains and enjoy a cup of tea and some home-made cakes and biscuits – a united front is what we aim to show them.

The children's Christmas craft session proved to be a huge success. Children and grown-ups both enjoyed making some lovely festive decorations. We will be holding another one at Easter, so keep an eye out for the date.

We are delighted to welcome two more students who are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh awards. They are using The Hub to complete the volunteering section – it's a pleasure to have you with us, girls.

If you haven't visited us yet, please do so – you won't be disappointed. As always, thanks go to the volunteers who make the whole thing possible.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE: COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING AT HAMBLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Hamble Primary School is launching a new community fundraising initiative, It Takes a Village, aimed at bringing together families, friends and the wider village to support school life.

Like many schools, Hamble Primary School is currently facing increasing financial pressures. In response, the school's governors have developed this positive, forward-looking initiative to help raise funds that will enhance pupils' experiences at school. Any money raised will go towards enrichment activities, experiences and resources that add extra value for the children.

Over the coming months, It Takes a Village will include a range of enjoyable community activities and events, offering opportunities for local residents to get involved and support the school in a meaningful way. The initiative has been designed to strengthen connections between the school and the community and to celebrate the important role the school plays within village life.

Updates, events and information on how to take part will be shared via the It Takes a Village Facebook page, where everyone is welcome to follow along and get involved. Visit the page here: <https://bit.ly/4jYNkai>



COMMUNITY NEWS

HAMBLE LADIES GROUP

Our Christmas Lunch at RAF Yacht Club in December was, once again, a great success. We ate a great lunch and had a few drinks in a lovely venue with lots of fun and laughter. We booked for this year before we left that day.

We came together on 13 January on a very wet Tuesday afternoon to attend the Hamble Ladies Group AGM, have a cup of tea and then listen to the Bursledon Handbell Ringers, and also have a catch up after Christmas.

Unfortunately, two of our committee members were very poorly and were unable to attend. They were very much missed. The AGM went as planned with all committee members willing to continue although with different roles.

Our financial situation is very healthy, and we were able to announce that we are making some donations to three worthwhile charities. More details next month. We had a packed house with 41 members paying their subscriptions for the next year. That is just for starters.



Following the AGM we welcomed the Bursledon Handbell Ringers run by Jenny Leeves. The group formed in 2019 using a set of 12 borrowed bells but were then given a set of 25. When Covid came along, they obviously had to stop but started up again when restrictions were lifted. The group of 8 ladies entertained us with some beautiful bell ringing with music from all around the world: Italian, German, French, and American, and also English. It was lovely to sit and relax and listen to them. Very enjoyable.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 10 February when Fiona Mackintosh will be talking to us about Health and Independent Living. 2pm start at the Priory Centre, Hamble.

Why not come along and join us? You will be most welcome (and don't forget your mugs!).

Bobby Conduit, 02380 453626

DINE
With Cocktails & Wine
JAN - FEB 2026

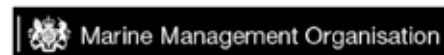
2 COURSES £21.50PP | 3 COURSES £26.50PP
Both options include a glass of wine or cocktail - whether you prefer no, low, or loads of alcohol.

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 HISTORIC COLLAR & BECKETT



MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009

APPLICATION FOR MLA/2025/00389 – Hamble jetty painting

Notice is hereby given that Ms Kyra Pesci, BP Oil UK Limited, Hamble Lane, Hamble-le-Rice, Southampton, SO31 4NR has applied to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009, Part 4, for a marine licence to undertake the maintenance of Hamble terminal jetty. This includes the installation and de-construction of scaffolding, use of suitable organic solvents, emulsion degreasing agents or equivalents to remove contaminants, high-pressure hydro-blasting to remove contaminants and painting of the existing structure.

Copies of the application and associated information may be viewed online in the MMO Public Register at: www.gov.uk/check-marine-licence-register

Representations in respect of the application should ordinarily be made by:
- Visiting the MMO; Public Register (www.gov.uk/check-marine-licence-register) and accessing the Public Representations; section of case reference MLA/2025/00389.

However, we will also accept representations via the following formats:
- By email to marine.consents@marinemanagement.org.uk; or alternatively
- By letter addressed to Marine Management Organisation, Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7AR

In all cases, correspondence must:
- Be received within 28 days of the date of the first notice (1);
- Quote the case reference; and
- Include an address to which correspondence relating to the representation or objection may be sent.

The Marine Management Organisation will pass to the applicant a copy of any objection or representation we receive.

COMMUNITY NEWS

HAMBLE FLOWER CLUB

Have you ever wanted to learn a new hobby or skill? This year could see that happen! Why not come along to one of our meetings and find out more?

Our next meeting on 9 February is a demonstration by the very talented Melanie Smith titled "Beauty in Bloom". Open to both members and non-members, it will be a fun afternoon with refreshments and a raffle, where you could go home with one of her amazing designs. Our AGM in March sees us celebrating 38 years as a club, and is where we also roll out the programme for the coming year and hold presentations, etc. Another great opportunity to come along and find out more about us.

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 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

UPCOMING DATES

Upcoming Parish Council Meetings at Roy Underdown Pavilion

Asset Management Committee Meeting

Monday 2 February, 7pm

Full Council Meeting

Monday 9 February, 7pm

Planning Committee Meeting

Monday 23 February, 7pm

Candlelight Concert

14 February
6.30pm - 9.30pm

At Royal Victoria Country Park.



School Half Term

16 - 20 February
(Inclusive, students return 23 February)

HAMBLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY: HOWARD'S WAY, 40 YEARS ON

At the Society's next meeting, James Arnott, a Hamble Valley Guide, will be telling the story of the television series *Howard's Way*, which started 40 years ago. It was a hugely popular television drama series filmed on the River Hamble.



Filming *Howard's Way* at Hamble.

It dealt with the personal and professional lives of wealthy yachting families and businesses in the fictional town of Tarrant. Much of the filming was carried out at Bursledon, using the Elephant Boatyard and the Jolly Sailor pub. Hamble, Swanwick and Warsash were also used for filming, with Warsash depicting the arrival of one of the yachts in the United States.

The actor Glyn Owen, who played the Mermaids Boatyard manager Jack Rolfe, knew the area and Hamble well, as he and his wife frequently stayed at the caravan site. They had a lovely flower bed around their caravan and passed their time walking fair distances, which was their release from public life in Hamble until *Howard's Way* started.

The meeting will be held on Thursday 5 February at 7.30pm, at the Memorial Hall (Rear Hall). New members and visitors are always welcome. Our meeting fee is just £2. If you would like more information, please contact our secretary, Margaret Greenfield, on 023 8045 4373.

