



Redshank, Sanderlings and Turnstones (Photos from Peter Hyde), Hamble Common and Hamble Quay (Photos from Bobby Conduit).
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!

One of the things I enjoy most about this newsletter is reading about what our community groups have been up to. It's wonderful to see so much happening in Hamble – from the Conservation Volunteers' tireless work on our green spaces, to Hamble Club Youth FC winning a national Grassroots Award for their incredible inclusive programme. If your community group hasn't featured in the newsletter recently, please do get in touch and let us know what you've been doing – we'd love to share your news.

Turning to Council business, I'm pleased to share that the results of our 3G pitch community engagement survey are now in. We received a fantastic response, with the clear majority of respondents preferring Hamble Club Football Club as the location for a potential future pitch. Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey – your views really do matter. The results have been passed to Eastleigh Borough Council, who are leading this project alongside the Football Foundation. They will decide next steps, and we will update you once we know more.

On the Hamble Airfield Statutory Review, there is no significant update since the last newsletter. Our legal team has submitted the application for a Statutory Review to the High Court, and we are now waiting for the court to consider our request. We will of course share any news as soon as we have it – please keep an eye on our website and social media for updates.

I'm delighted to welcome two new Councillors to the Parish Council – Suzy Hamel and Grant Woodall. Both are familiar faces, having previously served as Councillors for Hamble, and they bring a wealth of experience and passion for our village. I very much look forward to working alongside them both.

With Suzy and Grant on board, we still have one remaining vacancy on the Council. If you've ever thought

about getting involved in your community, I'd really encourage you to consider it. Being a Parish Councillor is an incredibly rewarding role – and it's about much more than planning applications and budgets. It's about shaping the future of our village: where should we be investing our resources? How do we protect what makes Hamble special while helping it grow and thrive? There's a lot to look forward to, and we'd love you to be part of it. You can find out more on **page 4**.

Finally, a word on the budget. Putting together the Council's finances for 2026/27 has been a careful balancing act. We've worked hard to set a budget that responds to what our community has asked for – including funding the Statutory Review to continue the fight against the Hamble Airfield quarry, which nearly 300 residents called on us to pursue at November's Full Council meeting – while also investing in the care of our community assets and maintaining the financial reserves that keep the Council on a stable footing. I'd like to give a special mention to our Clerk, Helen, and Deputy Clerk, Sasha, who have done a tremendous job in putting together such a comprehensive and well-considered budget – it's no easy task to balance the competing demands on our finances, and they have done so with real care and diligence. You can read the full details elsewhere in this newsletter, but I want to assure residents that every element of this budget has been carefully considered with Hamble's long-term interests at heart. If you want to know more about how the budget has been calculated, please do come along to our next Full Council meeting in March, or email us with any questions.

As always, thank you for your continued support. It's a privilege to serve as your Chair, and I look forward to what the months ahead will bring.

Cllr Chris Jones, Chair

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

HAMBLE PARISH COUNCIL: PRECEPT 2026/27

Your Council Tax – what's changing and why

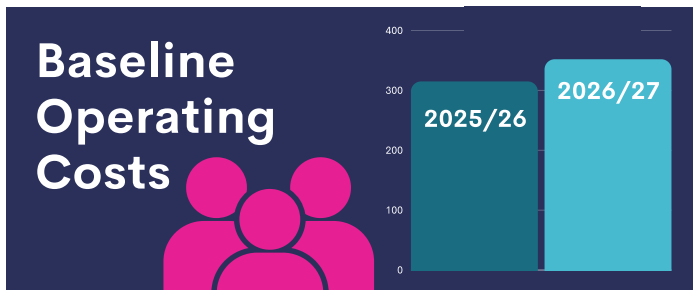
Every year, the Parish Council sets its share of the Council Tax – known as the precept. This is the money that funds the services and work we carry out on behalf of our community.

We know that any increase to household bills matters and that is why we are being open with you about what's changing this year, why it's changing, and where your money is going.

For the coming financial year, the Parish Council share of the Council Tax will increase from £190 to £224 per year for a typical Band D home – an increase of 18.43%. We know that percentage sounds significant, and we want to be straightforward about it. In real terms, **it works out at an additional 65p per week for a typical household.**

We don't take this decision lightly. But there are important reasons behind it – and we want to take you through them.

1. Keeping the Parish Council running



Before we talk about anything new, it's important to understand that our baseline operating costs – the money it takes simply to keep the Parish Council running, with no additional investment – have increased.

Our restated operating costs for 2025/26 were £315k. For the coming year, these have risen to £352k – an increase of 11.74%. This is a like-for-like increase. It covers things like general inflation, the National Living Wage increase taking effect from April 2026, and the ongoing impact of increased employer National Insurance contributions introduced last year. These employment-related costs have been running well above the general rate of inflation, and the Parish Council – like many employers – continues to feel the effects.

This part of the increase isn't about doing anything new. It's about continuing to deliver the services you already rely on.

2. Fighting for Hamble Airfield



In November, nearly 300 residents came to our Council meeting at the Royal Southern Yacht Club and made their voices heard. The message was clear: you want us to fight the proposed Cemex quarry development at Hamble Airfield. We heard you – and we're acting on what you asked for.

Part of this year's budget funds the next stage of that fight: a Statutory Review. We've set aside £25k to cover the legal costs involved. This is your Parish Council standing up for what the community has told us matters most.

But that's not the full picture when it comes to the Airfield. This year, we spent a further £25k on the Hamble Airfield fight, and that money came out of our general reserves. We need to put this money back. Good financial management means the Parish Council can handle unexpected costs and plan ahead with confidence. As stewards of your precept, we want to make sure we remain on a secure footing to continue serving Hamble effectively.

3. Investing in the village



This year's budget also sets aside just under £23k for making improvements throughout the village and effectively managing some of the challenges we're currently faced with.

- The Foreshore toilets – we all know that the toilets at the Foreshore are not at an acceptable standard – both for our own residents, and for the visitors to the village who bring so much income to our businesses throughout the year. This situation needs to be addressed.

- Car park machines at the Foreshore – the machines are now over 20 years old and can no longer be repaired. We will need to consider replacing these in the near future so that there is no interruption in operation. All income received is reinvested into the budget to help fund future Parish Council services.
- Mount Pleasant – Mount Pleasant is so important, both for sports provision in our village and for recreational users. It needs investment and development to ensure it remains a well-maintained facility for everyone to enjoy.

4. Preparing for local government changes



As you may be aware, a Local Government Reorganisation is currently underway. As part of this process, some assets and responsibilities will transfer from Eastleigh Borough Council to the Parish Council.

We've budgeted £5k to cover any additional costs that may arise as part of this transfer, so that we're prepared and there are no surprises.

What about general reserves?

As well as all the things we know about and can budget for, we also need to maintain a contingency – what we call our general reserves. These are for unknown costs, things we can't predict: fire, flood, or events like Covid.

Everything that is known has been budgeted for. But our general reserves are there for the things we can't foresee – and they need to be kept at a reasonable level.

Despite this year's increase, our general reserves are still likely to be short of the level we need to aim for. This is something we'll need to address in future budgets, and we want to be upfront about that.

My bill shows a larger increase in the Parish Council precept – why is this?

As part of Local Government Reorganisation, the Parish Council is taking over responsibility for some open spaces and assets from Eastleigh Borough Council (EBC). This is a positive step – it means the assets that matter most to Hamble will continue to be managed locally, with decisions made by us, for the benefit of our community.

Because of this transfer, EBC will no longer charge you for these assets – so their part of your Council Tax will reduce. We will charge for them instead, but the two changes cancel each other out.

There is no extra cost to you for us taking on these assets. They are simply being paid for from the Parish Council pot rather than EBC's.

What does this mean for Hamble?

This budget is about protecting what makes Hamble special.

We are fighting for the Airfield – because this is what you asked us to do.

We are taking on local assets from EBC – so they stay under local control, with decisions made locally for the benefit of our community.

We are investing in the facilities and spaces that residents and visitors use and enjoy every day.

And we are making sure that the Parish Council remains in a strong position to keep serving our community – effectively and responsibly – for years to come.

Have your say

We would encourage you to attend our Full Council meetings, where you can ask your councillors questions about the budget, where these figures came from, and what the money will be spent on. These meetings are open to everyone, and your input is always welcome. The next meeting is being held on 9 March 2026 at 7pm at the Roy Underdown Pavilion – please come along and ask questions or find out more.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW COUNCILLORS

We're delighted to welcome Suzy Hamel and Grant Woodall to Hamble Parish Council. You may well recognise both names, as Suzy and Grant have served as Councillors for Hamble in the past.



Suzy Hamel has lived in Hamble since 1998 and is an active member of the local sailing community. She previously served as an elected Parish Councillor from 2012 to 2017, including two years as Chair, and was also elected as a Borough

Councillor during the same period, serving for two years as Cabinet Member for Business, Skills and Education. Suzy runs her own business in Hamble and has worked in the marine industry for most of her life. She's keen to contribute positively to the continued wellbeing of the village and support local businesses.



Grant Woodall is equally passionate about the future of our village. With a professional background in public affairs and public relations, he has hands-on experience working with local, regional, and national government. Since then, Grant has

retrained as a psychologist and now runs a private practice from his home in Hamble, specialising in men's mental health and substance misuse – something that gives him a real understanding of the wellbeing challenges facing our community. He's focused on protecting our green spaces, maintaining the strategic gap, making sure infrastructure keeps up with development, and ensuring Hamble keeps its village character while continuing to thrive.

We're delighted to have Suzy and Grant on board. Their combined experience, dedication, and genuine love for Hamble will be a real asset to the Council.

We very much look forward to working alongside them both as we continue to serve and support our wonderful community.

Following the co-option of Suzy and Grant, there is still one vacancy on Hamble Parish Council. If you're passionate about your community and would like to help shape Hamble's future, we'd love to hear from you. Find out more and download an application form at <https://bit.ly/3Umbroj>.



3G PITCH COMMUNITY SURVEY: RESULTS

In January, we ran a community engagement survey on behalf of Eastleigh Borough Council, asking for your views on a proposed new 3G artificial pitch in Hamble. Thank you to everyone who took part – we received a fantastic response, with 829 respondents.

The headline results were clear: 98.4% of respondents supported the idea of a 3G pitch, and 95.8% said they or their family would use it. When it comes to location, Hamble Club Football Club was the preferred site with 56.8% of the vote, compared to 34.4% for Mount Pleasant Recreation Ground. The most popular activities were youth and junior football, adult football, and women's and girls' football, with strong interest also shown in school sessions and disability-inclusive sport.

We also received a number of free-text comments expressing a range of views on access, parking, governance, and community use, all of which have been captured in the full report.

The results have been passed to Eastleigh Borough Council, who are leading this project alongside the Football Foundation. They will now consider next steps. We'll share further updates as and when they become available.

CAROL SHEET AMNESTY

Did you join us for December's wonderful Community Christmas Carols in the Square? If you still have your carol sheet tucked away at home, please drop it back to the Parish Office when you get a chance. We'll make sure they're all returned to Carol, ready for next year's event. Thank you!

WHAT YOUR COUNCIL HAS BEEN WORKING ON

Here's a round-up of what's been happening at Hamble Parish Council over the past month.

- New toddler equipment at Mount Pleasant Play Area – We're delighted to let you know that the new play equipment for younger children has now been installed at Mount Pleasant (see photos below). This was funded through grant money from Eastleigh Borough Council and adds a fantastic new play space for our littlest residents.



- WeHopper back in action – The WeHopper at Mount Pleasant has now been repaired, following a short delay while we waited for specialist parts. Thank you for your patience while this work was carried out.

The past 12 months have really changed the face of the Mount Pleasant play area. What started with refurbishing the existing play equipment has grown into something the whole community can be proud of, with grant funding helping us add brand new equipment for younger children too.

We hope families across Hamble enjoy using the play area for many years to come.

Hello Hamble Habitants.

I've just finished laying my new chicken-proofed lawn... It's impeccable.

Spring is all about new beginnings and transformations; it's a season that symbolises starting fresh and starting over. After months of cooler temperatures and particularly wet weather that has often resulted in many of us feeling the winter blues, spring reawakens us and our surrounding environment, bringing everything back to life.

January and February were exceptionally wet and presented quite a challenge for the grounds team to stay on top of the day-to-day management of the green spaces around Hamble village. The overall cause of this disruption is down to a very persistent Atlantic weather pattern. A strong jet stream has repeatedly steered low-pressure systems towards the UK, bringing frequent spells of strong winds and long spells of rain.

The grounds team has been busy dodging the rain during the winter months and has reduced several areas of overgrown bramble, and in doing so has uncovered swathes of Bluebells and other spring flowers that otherwise would have been hidden from view. We've also been out planting new trees, hedges, bulbs and a generous spreading of wildflower seeds, which you will all be seeing the benefit of soon in and around the green and wooded spaces in Hamble.

If you haven't already, try downloading one of the many bird song identification apps – it really does add an extra enjoyable experience to your everyday walk around the village. It listens to bird songs in real-time and identifies them, and uploads photos to help you spot and identify the species you're hearing. On the morning of writing this paragraph I switched on my Merlin app and heard several different types of birds singing away, including Robin, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Wren and even a Common Buzzard. It really did brighten my day, so if you can, give it a go and have some fun.

I went to an archaeology party recently where they were only looking for remains of a lower leg... it was a bit of a shindig.

Mark Cowley, Grounds Ranger

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HAMBLE VALLEY REGATTA: MEDIEVAL REGATTA 2026

(Formerly Swanwick, Bursledon & Warsash Regatta)

**SATURDAY 29 and
SUNDAY 30 AUGUST**



Those of you that have been following the Regatta in recent years will have noted the name change and our relocation to Hamble Village. This relaunch has taken a couple of years to complete, but we are delighted to say that the regatta is now well established in its new home, and we very much look forward to welcoming you to our 2026 events.

This year's theme is 'Medieval' to celebrate the river's rich historical links as well as the return of the Bayeux Tapestry to Britain.

2026 Calendar of Events*

- 28 March: Horse racing evening
- 4 July: Family medieval dance festival
- 29 August: Yacht and dinghy racing, firework parties
- 30 August: Foreshore events and carnival

(*some events are in the early stages of planning so details may change)

The Regatta has been running for over 150 years, and we hope that it continues for many more. We are keen to re-establish our wonderful Friends of the Regatta network, which have been so supportive over the years. By becoming a Friend of The Regatta, you will be supporting the overall event and will get early notice of our events with the option of Early Bird discounted bookings.

Have a look at the Hamble Valley Regatta website at: <https://theregatta.org> or send an email to enquiries@theregatta.org with your name and mobile number and the team will be in contact with you.



With your support we can make this year's Regatta one to truly go down in history!

HAMBLE CLUB YOUTH FC WINS NATIONAL GRASSROOTS AWARD

Hamble Club Youth FC is thrilled to announce that we've won a national Grassroots Award for our inclusive trip to Barcelona – a fantastic recognition of the work our club is doing to make football accessible to everyone.



Our Inclusive section has grown to over 100 players, making it the largest on the South Coast. Every year, our adult players travel to Barcelona to take on FC Barcelona's inclusive team – and as the only club outside Spain invited to play the world-renowned side, it's an honour to represent not just Hamble but Great Britain as a whole.



None of this would be possible without our amazing group of players, management team, and the brilliant backroom support that keeps everything running.

We're incredibly proud of what this section has achieved and we're already looking forward to travelling again this year to take on another world-renowned club.



HAMBLE GOOD NEIGHBOURS: GET INVOLVED

You're Invited to Our AGM

We'd like to invite everyone to our Annual General Meeting:

- Monday 30 March 2026
- 6.15pm for 6.30pm start
- The Roy Underdown Pavilion, Spitfire Way
- Refreshments will be served.

Hamble Good Neighbours is a local group that drives Hamble residents to medical appointments. If you need some support, or you think you could volunteer to help our community, we'd love to hear from you.

If you're unable to attend the meeting but would like to find out more, please contact us on 0845 643 0371.

Do You Have Marketing Skills? We Really Need Your Help!

We're looking for a volunteer with IT or marketing skills who could help 'drive' our campaign for more drivers.

Hamble Good Neighbours has been taking local residents to their medical appointments for over 50 years. Last year alone, our small core of volunteers made over 600 journeys – that's a lot of goodwill!

We'd love to raise our profile and encourage new people into our group.

If you think you could help, please:

- Email hamblegoodneighbours@gmail.com or;
- Call our co-ordinator on 0345 643 0371

All reasonable expenses would be covered.

UPDATE FROM SOLENT SPORTS FC

Two football teams from Hamble are celebrating remarkable success this season, proudly flying the flag for the village both on and off the pitch.



Solent Sports Women have been recognised nationally at the prestigious Football v Homophobia Awards, picking up one of only three national awards presented across the country. The honour recognises their outstanding support of LGBTQ+ players and their commitment to making football a welcoming space for all.

The team, which plays at Mount Pleasant Recreation Ground, has worked tirelessly over the past year to ensure that inclusion is more than just a slogan. From creating safe playing environments to championing visibility and representation within the women's game, the award reflects a wider ethos that football should be a game for everyone.

Club representatives described the recognition as “a proud moment for Hamble,” adding that while trophies are special, the real success lies in the community they continue to build.



Meanwhile, Solent Sports Vets are preparing for one of the biggest matches in their history after reaching the final of the Hampshire FA Veterans Cup. The squad, made up largely of players who have been part of the club since its early days, has shown resilience and team spirit throughout their cup run.



Both teams call Mount Pleasant Rec home and are demonstrating that grassroots football in Hamble is thriving – not just in silverware and finals, but in unity, inclusion and community pride.

Steve Fletcher, Solent Sports FC

HAMBLE LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY: NEW PICTURES FROM THE PAST

The Society has been fortunate to receive some old glass slides of pictures of Hamble prior to the Second World War. Below are just a few examples that give an insight what Hamble looked like in the late 1930s.



Hamble Public Hard and Foreshore.



Lukes Boatyard pontoons and mud berths.



Manor House.

The next society's meeting is on 2 April when our Treasurer, Christine Smith, will be talking about her 'Growing up and Living in Hamble'; more details will be in the next newsletter. If you would like more information about the Society, please contact our secretary, Margaret Greenfield: 023 8045 4373.

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, HAMBLE

Due to an administrative error entirely of my own making, this piece did not appear as intended in the February edition of the Hamble village newsletter.



As always, Christmas was a joyful time at St Andrew's with well-attended services and of course Carols in the Square on Christmas Eve. Hundreds of villagers led by our lovely vicar Hayley, with help provided by Tim Hughes and his supporting team, sang their hearts out with lots of well-known carols.

As Hayley says, please remember that church is not just for Christmas, so with Easter in mind why not come along to a service on Good Friday or Easter Sunday?

And now for something new! As you will have seen in the December 2025 Hamble village newsletter, we have started a new service suitable for all: toddlers, juniors, teenagers, mums and dads, and grandmas and grandpas – and especially those who attend church occasionally or who would like to explore Christianity for the first time.

It is a contemporary style church service with sung worship, craft and drama, followed by tea/coffee and cake in the Priory Centre. The next service is on Sunday 22 March 2026 at 4pm, and then every 4th Sunday of the month. Please come along; you will be made very welcome.

Details of all our services and the very interesting history of St Andrew's Church can be found on our website at <https://www.standrewshamble.org>



COMMUNITY NEWS

THE MERCURY LIBRARY & COMMUNITY HUB: UPDATE

I'm sure many of you have seen the beautiful Valentine's display in our window – another winner! Thanks again to Bobby and Lorraine for their window dressing skills. In addition, the quillers created a wonderful display of Valentine's cards in our display unit – such talent.

The Citizens Advice Bureau have installed a very easy-to-use iPad at The Hub, which allows you to browse through all of their services. This is an information-giving device only, so you don't have to input any personal information.

We now have a QR code for people to make payments other than with cash. This can be used for any of the services we offer, including donations for the bring and buy sale to raise funds for the appeal against the quarry at Hamble Airfield.

Our bring and buy ended on 28 February with a coffee morning, with all proceeds going to Hamble Peninsular Residents Group to help with the legal costs for the ongoing battle against the quarry. At the time of writing, the final figure raised isn't known, so I'll let you all know how much we raised in the next edition.

We've started a Yoto library for children to use and would welcome any feedback from parents who make use of this.

Thanks as always to all of the volunteers who give up their time to make The Hub so welcoming.

DARKNESS FALLS FOR HAMBLE PLAYERS

Hamble Players' next production is Tuesday 24 to Saturday 28 March 2026, 7.30pm–10pm at Hamble Memorial Hall: Darkness Falls – A Double Bill of Supernatural Tales.



- In "The Monkey's Paw," a family discovers the power of wishes and learns that what they desire can come true in surprising and profound ways.
- In "The Dark," a successful and ambitious novelist faces his greatest challenge, ultimately revealing the depths of his character as he confronts a sinister fate.

Buy your tickets at

<https://ticketsource.co.uk/hambleplayers>



Did you know that the horror genre has ancient origins? It stems from folklore and religious traditions that focus on themes such as death, the afterlife, evil, the demonic, and the embodiment of these concepts in personified forms.

This genre has given rise to stories featuring beings like demons, witches, vampires, werewolves, and ghosts.

Horace Walpole is recognised as the founder of the horror story as a legitimate literary form, thanks to his 1765 novel "The Castle of Otranto".

HAMBLE LADIES GROUP

Our meeting on 10 February didn't go quite to plan. We were expecting Fiona Mackintosh to come along to talk to us about Health and Independent Living, but unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, she had to cancel at very short notice. We hope to re-book for later in the year.

This has only happened two or three times in all the years we have been meeting, and we have usually managed to put together a few quizzes – but on this occasion, didn't have time to do this. Our members were very understanding and settled down with a cup of tea or coffee and enjoyed chatting and catching up on what had happened since last month.

We only meet once a month, so we have to plan well ahead. This is why we have already booked to visit the Milestone Museum in Basingstoke for our outing in July. We've had a good response and have already taken names of members who are interested in attending.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 10 March when we have Alan Matlock coming along to talk to us about the 'Spitfire Makers'.

Why not join us? You will be very welcome. Our meetings start at 2pm and are held in the Priory Centre, Hamble.

Bobby Conduit, 023 80 453626

COMMUNITY NEWS

MOTHERING SUNDAY AROUND THE WORLD

Mothering Sunday falls on 15 March this year – so don't forget! But did you know that countries around the world celebrate mothers in wonderfully different ways?

Our own tradition dates back to medieval times, when servants and apprentices were given a rare day off during Lent to return to their "mother" church and visit their families. They'd often bring a Simnel cake – a light fruitcake layered with marzipan – as a gift for Mum. You can still find them in bakeries today, and they make a lovely alternative to the usual bunch of flowers.



In Mexico, Mother's Day is always 10 May, no matter what day of the week it falls on – and the whole country pretty much grinds to a halt. Families hire mariachi bands to serenade their mothers first thing in the morning – sometimes early enough to wake them up! Children also perform songs, dances and poetry recitals for their mums at school.



In Japan, children draw portraits of their mothers and give red carnations, which symbolise a mother's gentle strength. The tradition of the portraits dates back to the 1950s, when children would enter their drawings into a nationwide art contest every four years.



In Thailand, Mother's Day falls on 12 August – the birthday of the Queen Mother – so the day honours both the nation's symbolic mother and all mothers. Children give white jasmine flowers, which represent the purity of a mother's love, and the celebrations include public fireworks and candle-lighting ceremonies.



In Ethiopia, the celebration lasts three days as part of a festival called Antrosht, held at the end of the rainy season. The whole family comes together to cook, sing and dance, with daughters bringing vegetables and cheese and sons supplying the meat.



In Peru, families visit cemeteries to honour mothers and grandmothers who have passed away, bringing flowers, food and drinks to share at the graveside. Far from being sombre, it's considered a joyful celebration of the women who shaped the family.



And in Serbia, mothers are playfully tied up with rope on Mother's Day and can only be released once they hand over treats and small gifts to their children! It's part of a series of three December holidays – the children get tied up first the week before, and the fathers get the same treatment the week after.



However you choose to celebrate this year, we hope all the mums in Hamble have a wonderful day.



RACHAEL ALLEN
PODIATRY

Foot Care Clinic

Rachael Allen Podiatrist (BSc Hons)
Registered with the HCPC (Health Care Professional Council) and IOCP

Contact number- 07865790448
Email- allenrachael100@gmail.com

Located Satchell Lane, within Blackthorn Pharmacy/ Surgery, first floor Hamble.
Home visits also available.

- General routine foot care including nail cutting
- Hard skin (corn/callus removal).
- Diabetic foot checks
- Wound care
- Verruca treatments
- Ingrowing toe nail treatments

Please contact to discuss further treatments available.



HENVILLE HERE TO HELP

With families being under constant financial pressure, it can sometimes be difficult to give children and young people the opportunities we feel they need to help with their education.

In Hamble, the Henville Educational Trust has been on hand since the 19th century, to provide grants towards some of these needs. Over the years, hundreds of children and young people have been helped by the Trust. The grants are awarded to individuals or youth organisations and are available for anyone up to the age of 25. Those applying must live in Hamble or run a youth group in the village.

The money can be used for books, certain items of equipment, school trips, extra tuition, or support with activities connected to education, such as sport and music.

The trustees meet quarterly to discuss applications with the next meeting taking place in April. If you, or your youth organisation, feel you would like to apply, please contact the clerk to the trustees, Judy Theobald, at judytheob@aol.com for an application form.

Please let her know if you would like help to complete this form and she will happily go through it with you.

Please rest assured that all applications are treated in strictest confidence.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTION DEADLINES

April: Monday 16 March

May: Monday 20 April

June: Monday 18 May

July: Monday 15 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

HAMBLE CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

Over the quieter winter months, we've been busy cutting back vegetation that risks becoming a monoculture, which can limit the range of wildlife habitats. Working under the guidance of the Parish Rangers, we help remove selected undergrowth from Heather Gardens. It can be hard work, but it's incredibly satisfying – it doesn't take long to see the positive impact on wildlife. Our tasks suit a wide range of abilities, so if you can spare the time, please do come along and join us.

Want to know more?

- Our annual programme of tasks is displayed on our website and on notice boards around the Common.
- When we meet: Mondays at 10am
- **Where we meet:**
 - Parish tasks: Roy Underdown Pavilion, SO31 4RN
 - Beach cleans & Eastleigh tasks: School Lane car park (if School Lane car park is closed, meet at Hamble Point Car Park.)
- **Get in touch:**
 - Visit hambleconservationvolunteers.org.uk
 - Email philiprawlinson123@btinternet.com
 - Call 07810 453138



LOOKING FOR A SPACE TO HIRE?

Look no further! Roy Underdown Pavilion is an ideal space for children's parties, team building days, interviews, training sessions, meetings, family gatherings, corporate events, and community groups.

The cost of hire is just £20 per hour for the first hour and £18 per hour thereafter, and a refundable deposit of £50 is all we need to secure the booking. All day sessions are booked in 4-hour slots.

Visit the Parish Council website to see availability, make a provisional booking and read the terms and conditions.

IN YOUR GARDEN THIS SPRING

March and April are when our gardens really start to come alive again. Here's what to look out for and a few jobs to keep you busy.

What's flowering?

If you haven't already spotted them, Daffodils, Crocuses and Snowdrops should be putting on a fine show.

Look out too for Hyacinths, Grape Hyacinths (Muscari) and early Tulips adding splashes of colour. Primroses and Hellebores are also at their best right now, and if you're lucky, you may spot the first Bluebells appearing towards the end of March – keep an eye out for them on your walks around Hamble's green spaces too.

Jobs to do

As the soil starts to warm up, now is a great time to get ahead in the garden. Deadhead your Daffodils once they've finished flowering, but leave the foliage to die back naturally – it feeds the bulb for next year.

March is ideal for cutting back ornamental grasses and any remaining perennials you left over winter.

Give your lawn its first light cut if the weather is mild, but keep the blades high. It's also a good time to divide overgrown clumps of perennials and get them replanted while they're still waking up.

If you're itching to grow your own, sow tomatoes, peppers and chillies indoors on a sunny windowsill, and towards the end of March you can start sowing hardy annuals and vegetables like broad beans, peas and lettuce outdoors.

And don't forget to put out fresh water for the birds – they'll be busy nest-building and will appreciate the help!



UPCOMING DATES

Upcoming Parish Council Meetings at Roy Underdown Pavilion

Asset Management Committee Meeting

Monday 2 March, 7pm

Full Council Meeting

Monday 9 March, 7pm

Planning Committee Meeting

Monday 23 March, 7pm

Hamble Local Makers Market

7 March
2pm – 5pm

Local Art & Craft stalls along the High Street, in many of your favourite establishments starting in the Square! Plus a free kids treasure trail starting at Sea Sky Art.

Candlelight Concert

14 March
6.30pm – 9.30pm

At Royal Victoria Country Park.
Tickets available here:
<https://bit.ly/4qMZNGb>

Mothering Sunday

15 March



Wessex Sinfonietta

22 March
3pm – 4pm

At Royal Victoria Country Park.
Tickets available here:
<https://bit.ly/4tK5qRH>

St Andrew's Church contemporary service

22 March
From 4pm

Clocks Go Forward

29 March

Hamble Good Neighbours AGM

30 March
6.15pm for 6.30pm start

At Roy Underdown Pavilion.

Easter School Holidays

30 March – 10 April

Last day of term will be Friday 27 March.

Easter

Good Friday
3 April

Easter Monday
6 April

