



# Hamble Valley Regatta 2026

and the

Hambleux Tapestry Project

## Welcome to the Regatta

The Hamble Valley Regatta is a fun annual event for families in Hamble and all the villages around the river. This year the theme is Medieval, to celebrate Hamble's incredible history.

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August there will be yacht racing and dinghy racing.  
(<https://theregatta.org/sailing/#enter>)

On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August the river and foreshore will be buzzing with fun water events like paddleboarding, races in rubber dinghies and lots more to watch or enter, and the beer and soft drinks tent will keep everyone refreshed!

This much-loved traditional regatta is more than 150 years old and over time has been hosted by Bursledon, Swanwick and Warsash. Now it's Hamble's turn, complete with the new Hamble Valley Regatta name.

## How to **Join In** the Fun

- For now, please take part in the Hambleux Tapestry Project – see next page.
- In August, enter for yacht or dinghy racing.
- On Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August come down to the foreshore around 12 noon in Medieval costume and take part in the fancy dress competition as well as other events.
- If you have a rowing boat or paddleboard then take part in the on the water events.

Contact the regatta if you would like to borrow a boat: [enquiries@theregatta.org](mailto:enquiries@theregatta.org)

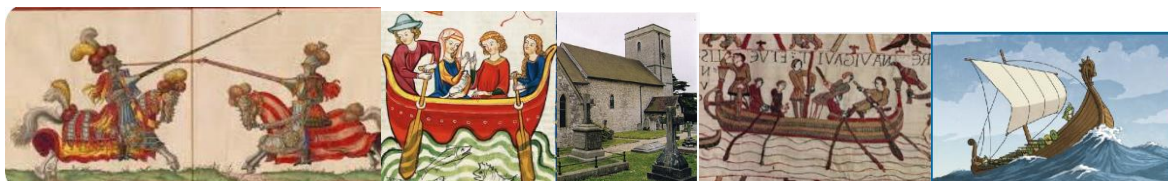
Here are some facts about Medieval Hamble to inspire you:

### Medieval Hamble

Medieval times are also known as the Middle Ages. In England, this is the time between The Romans and Queen Elizabeth 1<sup>st</sup>. It is a time of castles and knights in armour. You probably know lots of stories from Medieval England such King Arthur, Alfred and the Cakes and Robin Hood. Many traditional stories are set in the medieval period such as Sleeping Beauty and Rapunzel.

The village had various names and spelling in Medieval times, such as Hamelea in 720, or Amle in 1147 or Hammel Hoke in 1363. It was first mentioned in 720 CE when a monk, the Venerable Bede wrote, "... the tides meet and oppose one another beyond the mouth of the River Hamelea which runs into that narrow sea from the land of the Jutes ..."

The double high tides of Hamble River noted in those early times made it an important maritime haven for sailors and fishermen. In addition, there has always been a good supply of fresh water from many streams and wells (you may know Well Lane). The fine mud on the riverbed provided a breeding ground for oysters, as well as being very useful for laying-up wooden boats.

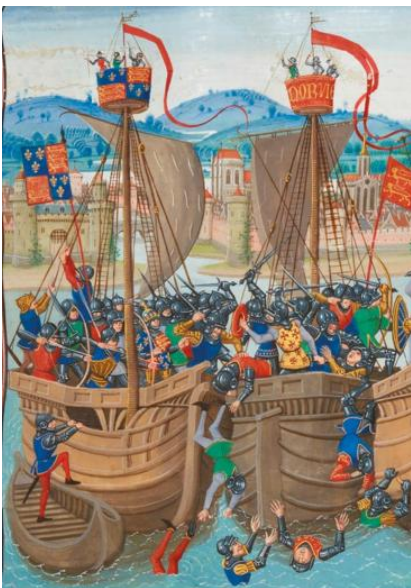


The Hamble estuary lent itself to being a fishing port and the tiny seaport once was alive with the fishermen and families who made their trade from landing all manner of fish, lobsters and scallops from far and wide. There is even a record of a lobster pond watchman! The village was known for its rope-making industry, "Rope Walk" is the road that leads to Well Lane.

Before the Norman conquest the village had been subject to Viking attacks but after 1066 it seems to have prospered. In 1109 to a cell of Benedictine monks from France were granted land in Hamble by the Bishop of Winchester. Here they built a Priory, and our church of St Andrew's dates from this time. The church was badly damaged and plundered by an attack by the French in 1377. In 1391 William of Wykeham bought the Priory and its property for his college at Winchester.



Did you know that the Prior of Hamble used to send 20,000 locally caught oysters to the Monks of St Swithins in Winchester in Lent and in return the six monks at Hamble received 21 loaves and 42 flagons of ale weekly?

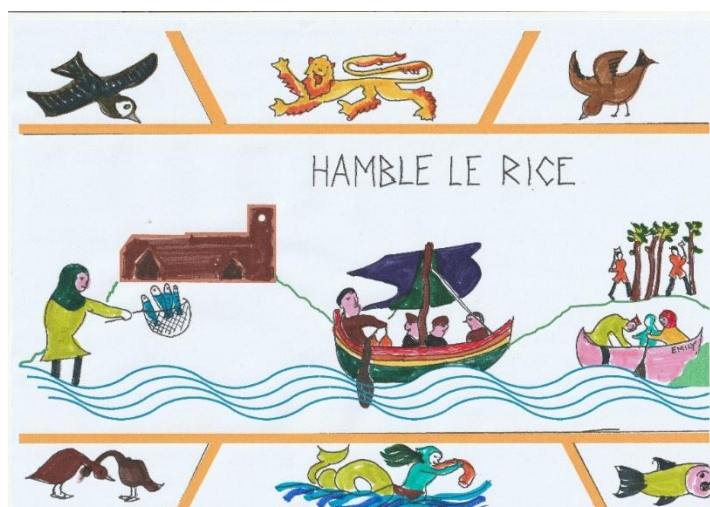


Boat building was well established by the 14th century when the Hamble supplied 7 ships and 117 mariners for the Battle of Crecy, more than Portsmouth. Smuggling was recorded in 1235 when 11 ships full of herring were arrested at Hamble for not paying custom duties. There are also records of piracy.

During the 15th century many 'Royal' ships used the river and a number of them would be laid up in the soft mud. The remains of the "Grace Dieu", the largest ship ever built in England at that time, still lies in the river mud.



# The Hambleux Tapestry Project



To celebrate the victory of William the Conqueror in 1066 a tapestry was commissioned to depict the events before the battle and the battle itself. This has been displayed in Bayeux in France but is coming to England in July 2026 to hang for some months in the British Museum.

To celebrate this as well as the regatta we would like you to design a panel of a 'Hambleux' Tapestry that can be joined to others to make a sensational celebration of Medieval Hamble. We also have some templates that you can just colour in.

Your panel could depict:

- Life at the priory
- Life in the village -- fishing, farming, children at play
- Shipbuilding
- An attack by Vikings
- The battle of 1377
- The Grace Dieu

Or anything else that you think is interesting.

To take part download the template here ([theregatta.org/tapestry](http://theregatta.org/tapestry)) with the instructions. Print the template on A4. Design and colour your panel, trying to use the style and colours of the Bayeux Tapestry. When you are pleased with your panel, put your name age and contact details (email preferably) on the back, roll it up and put it in the tube from a finished kitchen roll. Post or deliver to:

Hamble Valley Regatta, 24 Astral Gardens, Hamble, S031 4RY.

The completed project will be on display at the Regatta Dance and at the Foreshore Events.