

# SEA BRITAIN CELEBRATIONS

By Clare Kennedy

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**HAMBLE'S** maritime history was brought to life during an action packed week-end.

In Trafalgar's Bicentennial year the spotlight fell on the River Hamble's boatbuilding heritage.

One such boat builder, George Parsons of Bursledon, constructed 16 warships including HMS Elephant - Nelson's flagship at the battle of Copenhagen.

Highlights during the week-end included the transformation of Hamble Common into British Redcoat camp where members of the Napoleonic Association lived for the week-end as they would have done in the eighteenth century.

Members of the British Federation of Historical Swordplay also performed spectacular demonstrations of historical swordmanship.

Hamble's popularity with smugglers from 1235, who favoured the shore's shallow waters for landing illicit cargo, was the subject of one of several illustrated talks organised during the week-end.

There was plenty of fun for all the family with a farmers' produce market, craft stalls, beer tasting, face painting, Punch and Judy shows and a hog roast.

Collecting crabs on the quay proved particularly popular with about 70 children taking part.

Jo Cooper, tourism services manager at Hamble Valley Tourism, said: "It has been really successful.

We have had a good number of visitors. We have had people who are interested in the maritime history as well as children who have enjoyed all the different events."

The weekend of events entitled All Aboard HMS Hamble was organised to coincide with the Sea Britain 2005 celebrations.

It also comes in the bicentenary year of the Battle of Trafalgar and Lord Admiral Nelson's death after his momentous victory.



STORY TIME: Story teller Michael O'Leary, back centre, with children at Hamble.

Order

# All aboard . . .



Sarah Smith and Bronwyn Mauchline.  
Order no: rad4dfa5



THE COONEY FAMILY: Left to right, Hannah, 11, Jane and Sarah with their dog Holly.  
Order no: rad7219

RIGHT: Left to right, Bradley Elms, 10, Alexia, 4, and Lucy Deighton, 14.  
Order no: rad8ace4

