Growing up and living in Hamble

2nd April 2026 - Memorial Hall

At the Society's last meeting our Treasurer, Christine Smith, talked about her life growing up and living in Hamble. She started with a picture of herself as a baby at an end of war celebration street party and one of her earliest special memories as a young girl was a trip to London to see the Festival of Great Britain in 1951.

In 1948 Christine's family, the Burdons, move to Sydney Farm. The farm was built at the end of the 1700s to support a new large house, Sydney Lodge, which was the home of the Yorke family. When her family moved there, they were tenants of the Chamberlayne Estate and the farm had cows, pigs and chickens.

When two of the large fields were sold for building Grantham Close prefabs and Westfield Close, they had to diversify into market gardening and they had a farm shop and a delivery round. Her father was among the first to use arks for the free-range pigs and battery cages for his chicken.

When describing life on the farm, Christine included some amusing stories, such as her father being run over by his own delivery tractor and a complaint about smells. The shop owner over the road at Hamble Stores complained to her father about the awful smell while he was cleaning out the chicken house. He replied 'What about me? I am on the other end of the shovel'.

While at Sydney Farm they did not have time to go on holidays because of having to look after the animals but had days out at the horse races. Christine spoke about the limited facilities at the farm such as no electric sockets, so if you wanted electricity you had to connect up to the electric light sockets, plus problems with the water freezing during the winter. Sydney Farm was sold to Hampshire County Council for housing and when it closed it was replaced by Grantham Avenue in the early 1960s.

When the Burdons had to leave Sydney Farm they moved to Hamble Lane and hired fields north of the Junior School to carry on their market garden business. Christine spoke about the different animals she owned such as dogs, goats and ponies. She also described the schools she attended and the great variety of shops and delivery services (including her father's vegetable and fruit round) during the 1950s. When she left school her first job was at Lankester & Crook at Netley and then at the oil terminal in Hamble.

Christine married her husband, Alan, in 1977 and she went on to explain his jobs at Petters Refrigeration and at British Aerospace/Aerostructures and how these factories changed over time. Her father came to Hamble in the 1930s to work for Major Goldman in the grounds of his house Sydney Lodge that was to become the site of the aircraft factory.

She then went on to give examples how Hamble had changed over her life such as the doctor's surgeries, the airfield and other sites in Hamble that became housing developments particularly in the 1980/90s. This included how the Memorial Hall changed over the years where she volunteered to help run the Village Market. Next, she explained how the Coronation Arms pub (later

renamed the Harrier) became a retirement home complex Folland Court and the air training students' accommodation block where she worked was demolished to become Hambleside Court retirement home.

Christine described her time working at the Village Tearooms that is now the River Rat restaurant and how she participated and won prizes at horticultural shows. She concluded by telling the story how her family's allotment was lost. For those attending hearing about Sydney Farm, where she grew up, was most fascinating as few of them knew of its existence.