

Hamble in the Past

14th & 22nd November 2013 - Roy Underdown Pavilion

This was another extremely popular talk by Ian Underdown, the Society's Chairman, so much so, not all who wished to attend could be accommodated therefore a repeat meeting was organised for the following week. His presentation gave the Society and visitors a glimpse of 'Hamble in the Past' and they enjoyed a pictorial view of Hamble in years gone by.

Ian started by showing activities that had taken place on or off the foreshore over the years, from King Henry V's ships using Hamble to the development of the current foreshore and its various uses. Next there were some very interesting pictures of farming in Hamble and this included a brief history of its three main farms; Manor Farm, Satchell Farm and Sydney Farm.

Following this he showed the large houses which once existed, as well as Sydney Lodge, Hamble Cliff House and the Manor House which still remain today. Details of the prominent people who lived in them were given, as well as the employment that they gave Hamble residents. Other significant houses in the village were mentioned, also the shops, post office and church that served them.

New research was included in his talk, such as when the main services came to Hamble, e.g. telephones reached the village in 1912 and Hamble River Luke & Co Ltd had telephone number Hamble 1. When speaking about Hamble's pubs Ian provided new information he had found and Hamble pubs could possibly be the subject of a future meeting.

The development of the schools in Hamble was illustrated, from the opening of Hamble National School in 1840, which took all the village's children of school age, to the expansion that resulted in the current Primary School and the Community Sports College. TS Mercury training around 5,000 boys for the Royal and Merchant navies was not missed out.

TS Mercury formed one of the first Scout groups in the country and in 1910 the first registered Sea Scout group. The history of Hamble Scouts was outlined, as well as Hamble Fire Brigade. The stories and images of the development of the railway and ferry followed.

The village's industries were illustrated next including fishing, Luke Brothers Boatyard, the oil terminal and aviation at Hamble which started just four years after the first flight in the country.

Ian concluded by highlighting the development of Hamble Point which reflected Hamble's industrial growth. It started with salt making then fishing, aviation and the boating industry.

Much appreciation was expressed at the end of the meeting and most commented they had found the talk very informative, plus many were surprised how important and interesting Hamble was in the past. A very successful evening!

A booklet has been produced about 'Hamble in the Past'.