

History of Satchell Lane

7th November 2019 - Roy Underdown Pavilion

Another full house for the Society's Chairman, Ian Underdown, who gave a very well-illustrated talk about Satchell Lane and he said there cannot be many residential roads in this country that can match its history. Many people were not aware that it was not until the beginning of the 1900s that most of the lane became part of Hamble, as in the previous centuries Satchell was a tithing in Hound.

Its first recorded mention was in 1251 when Henry III granted the abbot and monks of Netley Abbey free warren in their lands of Netley, Hound, Shotteshal (Satchell) and Sholing. Satchell's name changed over the centuries with some variations being Shotshall, Shatsham, Shatshau and Sachel. During this time Satchell was a small agricultural tithing but being close to the river some its residents made their living from the river and going to sea. Satchell Farm was the main centre of activity and its workers lived in the thatched cottages in the lane. On average about 30 people lived in Satchell tithing. The tenant of Satchell Farm often farmed Manor Farm at Hamble and Hound Farm.

A superbly illustrated estate map of 1725 gives the first details of its tenants, dwellings, fields and commons. It appears that Satchell Lane was probably the main road into Hamble. In 1766 William Chamberlayne, a large landowner in the area, took possession of Satchell and his family owned it well into the 20th century. Around this time the central part of Copperhill Terrace was built at the Hamble end of Satchell Lane on a site where coppers for boiling tar for nautical related items were once situated.

During the 1860s a large house known as Ravenswood was built between Satchell Lane and the river, located at the present-day Crowsport. In 1892 the training ship TS Mercury was permanently moored on the Hamble River where gradually a shore establishment was built in Satchell Lane. In the mid-1890s Mercury View Terrace was built and this was when the lane started to change and develop as we know it today.

At the beginning of the 1900s some Satchell Lane residents asked Hamble Parish Council if they could be included in Hamble. In 1902 most of Satchell Lane from the entrance to Port Hamble Marina northwards, including all the houses, was transferred from Hound to Hamble. Ian went on to show how the houses developed up the lane in the 1900s and the businesses that were located there including its own shop, Satchell Stores.

A major impact on the life of its residents occurred in 1926 when Satchell Farm fields were sold and made into an airfield which Air Service Training took over in 1931 and it became known as Britain's Air University. Ian showed some examples of the inevitable aircraft crashes adjacent to the lane. Satchell Lane was a gravel road and had two gravel pits but by the 1930s its homes had gained public services such

as mains water, sewerage, gas, electricity, telephone and the road had gradually been tarred. Crowsport was built in the mid-1930s in anticipation of yachtsmen buying the bungalows for seasonal use during the summer months.

After the Second World War more businesses started up such as boatyards at Badnam Creek, a sailmaker took over the east side farm buildings, a dentist worked from Fullwood and there was a printing business at the Studio. In the mid-1950s a caravan site was established and due to post-war housing shortage it was allowed to use part of the site for permanent residents. In the 1960s a very significant change to the river and Satchell Lane occurred with the development of marinas. In 1964 Port Hamble Marina opened and Mercury Marina was completed in 1971.

TS Mercury closed in 1968 and later the airfield in 1984 which were to have significant implications. Satchell Lane was bypassed around the school in 1977 to enable the Mercury estate to be built. A 1970s proposal for a small pedestrian precinct near the former entrance of TS Mercury, so that the lane would be divided into two cul de sacs, was discussed at public meetings but due to the diversity of opinion of the residents it was never pursued.

Recent developments such as the Community Sports Complex, Blackthorn Health Centre and the inclusion of the former airfield for gravel extraction in the County's Minerals and Waste Plan were also illustrated by Ian. Over the years there have been five boundary changes that affected Satchell Lane, the last in 2019 extended it to include land on the east side of Hamble Lane up to Mallards Road and the Bursledon boundary that brought all of Satchell Lane within Hamble.

It was most pleasing seeing so many current and former Satchell Lane residents at the meeting who were able to gain an insight what it was like in the past through the many fascinating pictures. If you want to find out more information about the history of Satchell Lane a booklet has been produced and for details see the 'Publications' section.