

## **Sail Loft - Satchell Lane, Hamble**

Satchell Farm has been part of our community for centuries and since the end of the Second World War its buildings on the east side of Satchell Lane have been the home of many Hamble sail makers. Now the most recent sail makers using these premises, Angela Medway and Simon De Lisle of 'Sew Pro', have had to transfer the business out of the village to Shamrock Quay to enable the site to be redeveloped for housing. Angela and Simon are the last of a long line of sail makers who have provided a service to the local yachting industry. Simon is a Hamble lad who enjoyed sailing 'Merlin' racing dinghies with the local sailing club, which led him to serve his apprenticeship at the Satchell Lane Sail Loft in the 1970s and to develop his career in the sail making business.

John Bartlett, who was based at Manor Farm, was the last farmer to operate Satchell Farm which he did up to the late 1930s. Satchell Farm had a pond and a marsh all around the buildings on the east side of the lane and this was the home for 20-30 cows.

After the war these farm buildings on the east side became the home for sail makers. First Jim Williams made sails there, soon to be joined by Stan Budd who later moved on to form Bowker & Budd sail makers at Bosham. It was 'Williams Sails', run by Mrs Williams (no relation to Jim), who extended the premises and built a purpose sail loft. 'Williams Sails' were the sail makers who operated their business for longest time at these premises.

There are still other sail makers in the area but many use computers to design sails and then send their designs to be cut and made in China, with the finishing touches completed back in this country. How different from the traditional skills learnt and practised over many decades at the Satchell Lane Sail Loft!

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