

## **Garage by Hamble Halt**

New residents of Hamble may wonder why an aircraft hangar is in a field adjacent to Hamble Halt Railway Station, that is, across the road from the airfield.

It was built during the spring of 1942 to house six single deck Hants & Dorset buses which were used to convey workmen (and women) from the newly built (January 1942) Hamble Halt to Folland Aircraft Ltd via Kings Avenue or Cliffe Avenue and to Air Service Training (AST) via Sydney Avenue and Beaulieu Road to a point approximately where the entrance to the BP Terminal is now.

Trains from Southampton were met at 7.10 am, 7.30 am, 8.05 am and 8.25 am whilst those from Portsmouth were met at 6.50 am, 7.13 am, 7.40 am and 8.20 am. The six buses ran back and forth until all had been safely delivered to their workplace.

The finishing times at the works varied from day to day although generally speaking, 12.30 pm was the norm for Saturday and 4 pm on Sundays. There were several trains in each direction to suit, one at 6 pm being a through train to Poole as several people from that area worked at Air Service Training.

The buses were various types of 1930s Leylands which had their seats placed longitudinally, decreasing the seating area but increasing the standing room - some were painted in wartime grey, but others retained their pre-war livery.

The service was reduced over the post war years as was the labour force, but was still running during the hard winter of 1947-48, but the Sunday service ceased in 1945.

After the finish of the shuttle service, the garage was used by several local firms and was, for some years, a store for Folland Aircraft and Petters

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