

## **21 Years of Hamble Local History Society**

The Society was founded in 1999 when Tony Sedgwick and Ian Underdown organised a meeting inviting anyone interested in forming a local history society to meet at the Roy Underdown Pavilion. 20 people attended who wished to become members and a future programme of meetings was arranged.

Over 100 talks have been held since then and its aim has been to focus on local subject matters with the topics based on Hamble and the surrounding area. The illustrated talks have now included nearly all aspects of Hamble's history and the furthest away place a presentation has covered was the River Itchen. The Society has arranged visits to places such as the church, fire station and local companies, as well as giving talks to Hamble schools, other local history societies and organisations. It has also helped with guided walks.

Throughout its existence it has contributed to the Village Magazine and other local publications such as the Scene magazine. In 2008 the Society was awarded a National Lottery grant to buy equipment for its presentations and in 2010 it started to produce accompanying booklets for some of its important Hamble talks. The booklets are sold by the Post Office at Coronation Parade and Blue Bijou in Hamble Square.

Over the years many familiar Hamble names have been its officers. How many do you remember? Chairmen: 1999 - Jack Bell, 2000 - Barry Martin, 2002 - Margaret Greenfield, 2004 - Shared by committee members and 2007 to present - Ian Underdown. Secretary: 1999 - Mike Pendlebury, 2007 - Keith Huxted, 2008 - Dave Wilde, 2012 - Brian Knapp and 2017 to present - Janet Flack. Treasurer: 1999 - Rhyd Morgan, 2006 - Dave Wilde and 2008 to present - Christine Smith.

Caroline Pendlebury set up the Society's first website at the beginning of 2002 and subsequently Keith Huxted arranged for Hampshire County Council to host it for free in 2007. HugoFox became the Society's new free webhost in 2016 that allowed a much-improved website. The website includes a brief history of the important aspects of Hamble, a wide range of articles about Hamble's life and reports of all the Society's meetings. It also has old pictures of Hamble and useful links to other organisations that have information about history connected with the village, as well as details from Hamble censuses and directories.

The Society was unable to celebrate its 21st anniversary at its April meeting in 2020 due to the coronavirus 'lockdown' that did not permit public meetings. During the 'lockdown' the opportunity was taken to transcribe all the censuses of Hamble from 1841 to 1911 and they are now available on its website

A pictorial presentation of the Society's activities during its first 21 years will be given at the beginning of its first meeting after the coronavirus restrictions are lifted.

**Ian Underdown 2020**