

# Hamble Shops

## 8th June 2023 - Memorial Hall

The Society's Chairman, Ian Underdown, gave this very interesting talk about shops that have served the village over the years, a similar topic which was the subject of a meeting in 2010. It was amazing how things had changed since then, comparing photographs of that time and now.

Most villages have shops which residents have fond childhood memories. Hamble is no different, with shops like Bevis' and Lynton's sweetshop/newsagents. Members of the audience shared their memories of these shops as well as Lankester & Crook, Spakes the butcher, C S Lewis the shoe shop, Hookers the bakers and Hamble Stores.

Ian started by giving details of the first known shops in Hamble in 1839: a baker, tailor, blacksmith and a shop in the Old House. In the 1850s there were 3 boot & shoemakers. As the village changed and increased in population, so did the shops that served them. In the early years Hamble consisted of just the village centre and a few large houses but by the 1930s the top end of the village had developed due to the new aircraft factories and had its own shops and a pub.

A particular focus of this talk was the shops of the 1950s and early 1960s which many older residents could remember. Ian started at the Quay, going up the High Street to the nine shops at St Andrews Buildings, showing the different shops of that time and pictures of what they were before and afterwards.

Since the 2010 talk many new pictures had been found such as inside of the village's main store, Lankester & Crooks, that showed where customers were served and then when it became self-service. Seeing the tins of biscuits from which the shop keeper would serve the customers brought back memories of buying broken biscuits at a reduced price and school children using their bus money to buy cakes or sweets and walking home. Other memories were of items such as paraffin being readily available from hardware stores and garages.

Next the meeting moved to the shops at the top end of the village such as Coronation Parade. The first block of shops was built in the 1930s and the second (left hand) block in the 1950s. Roads such as Sydney Avenue and Satchell Lane had their own shops to serve them that Ian illustrated. By the 1960s the use of the car and in towns larger supermarket stores starting to develop led to the demise of village shops. As the last owner of Satchell Stores, the Field family, said most people would only use it if they had forgotten something, rather than use it for their main grocery shopping.

Supermarket and internet deliveries are today very convenient but details of Hamble's previous delivery services were given from Bartletts and Brown & Harrison milk horse carts to Hookers & Lowman bread vans, as well as fruit & vegetable and even bicycle ice cream deliveries.

Hamble has been fortunate that it has been a significant maritime centre and this has helped it shops compared to other villages and even had the 'Ditty Box' on an old boat that supplied chandlery, fuel and provisions for river users.

Those attending were surprised which places in Hamble were used as shops that are now residential homes, such as Margery Cottage that was where R J Parkers cameras, film & developing first started in the 1920s and is now at Woolston. Today Hamble has just 7 shops selling products compared to 27 in the 1950s plus several banks and garage service stations that no longer exist to the disappointment of many residents.

A familiar comment at the end of the meeting was that you always learn something new from Ian's well illustrated and comprehensive talks. As a result of this meeting many more memories were shared on a local Facebook group, even from people who no longer lived in the village.