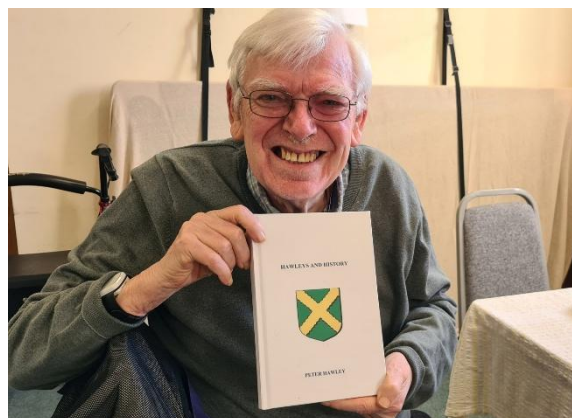


Hawleys in history

Retired lawyer Peter Hawley, a long term resident of Whitchurch High Street, has been busy over many years assembling information on Hawleys from the 14th century onwards. The Hawley name, with variations in the spelling, spread far and wide. Peter has now published a colourfully illustrated 330-page book *Hawleys and History*, bringing



together the most interesting members of the family, who are not all necessarily related. The book is for sale on Amazon.

Before studying history at Cambridge, Peter undertook National Service in Malaya, where he first became aware of prominent Hawleys in Singapore and Java in the 17th century, competing with Dutch and Portuguese traders in oriental goods and spices. This colourful Dartmouth-based family is one of many to receive attention.

Other chapters of the book, many of them inspired by Peter and his late wife Tania's world travels, introduce a variety of prominent Hawley families. There are trading adventurers in Barbados, leaders of colonial settlement in Virginia and Maryland, and those taking sides in the English Civil War, among many more.

The book is highly readable, and the text is generously illustrated. Among the many whose help Peter acknowledges is his text editor Felipa House, also from Whitchurch.

It has been said that ancient family history becomes of interest to those outside that family only when the individuals were active in historical events and became well known figures. Thanks to the author's widespread and determined research, this book provides a wealth of interest.

Richard Wingfield
14th January 2026