

THE ORIGINS OF ROCK ALLOTMENT SOCIETY



Cherry Hinton Road seen from Rock Road corner, circa 1910
Courtesy Cambridgeshire Collection, Cambridge Central Library

1912 The Boundaries of Cambridge were enlarged and the new ward of Cambridge Without was created. A Provisional Committee was formed, including local Councillors Conder and Hawkins, to develop an allotment society in the area.

6 January 1916 The first meeting of the Rock Allotment Society was held. On 8 March 1916 the Secretary of RAS wrote to the Borough Allotments Committee applying for a lease of the land known as Glebe Allotments. The Borough leased the land from Thomas Walker, the Vicar of Cherry Hinton, for 10 years for the yearly rent of £33. RAS then signed an underlease to rent the land from the Borough Council on 18 November 1916. The First AGM was held in The Mission Room, Blinco Grove, on 6 October 1916.



Cambridge Daily News photo

Councillor John S Conder chaired the meeting and was elected the first President.

The following are also known to have been at the first meeting:

Mendham Atkins 24 Rathmore Road, carpenter
S Braine 'Glencoe' 256 Cherry Hinton Road, carpenter

Henry J Clarke
T Day 'Sunningdale' 33 Rathmore Road, builder

Alex Dix 248 Cherry Hinton Road, carpenter
G Hatton 7 Marshall Road
Cllr W Hawkins 'Claremont' 68 Rock Road

The first Committee was made up of RAS members and allotment holders:

HJ Flack 54 Cowper Road, builder
J Dumas 20 Tenison Avenue
W J Dear 'Rosewarne' 114 Hartington Grove
H J Hayles 97 Cherry Hinton Road, builder
T S Marriott
T S Watson 53 Blinco Grove, gardener
H H Whittaker 'Edward Cottage' Marshall Road, carpenter

C Manner

Chas Mead
Joseph Oakman The Cabin, Cowper Road, cowman
W Odell 'Laurel Cottage' 30 Marshall Road, gardener
J Oyston 160 Cherry Hinton Road, corn dealer
B A Underwood 12 Marshall Road, compositor
Charles Ziegler 8 Rock Road