

1919-1929: THE EARLY YEARS

THE IMPORTANCE OF POTATOES

Rock Allotment Society Ltd.

EXHIBITION
OF THE
POTATOES
(Grown under the Prize Scheme)

AND

Annual General Meeting

WILL BE HELD IN THE
ASSEMBLY ROOMS,
- Cherryhinton Road -
ON
Friday, October 17th, at 7.45 p.m.

The exhibition and discussion on Potato Growing
:: will be open to Non-Members of the Society ::

APPLICANTS FOR NEW LAND
:: :: are specially invited :: ::

All potatoes to be staged by 7 p.m. when judging will
commence.

1919 Potato Competition winners

Witch Hall Early

1 H Hatton 2 W Blows 3 W J Dear

Majestic

1 H Hatton 2 Mr Gray 3 W J Dear

Kerr's Pink

1 H Hatton 2 W J Dear 3 J Blows

The Society provided Scotch seed potatoes to encourage plot-holders to grow good disease-free crops. Without a trading centre, seed-potato storage had to be found. In 1922 the Cowper Road stables of Mr Flack the builder were used.

Potato trials were held annually, which "caused an education to creep into the allotment movement" according to Mr Newman. In 1924 Mr Flack's King Edwards were the heaviest croppers.

POTATO TRIALS.

Mr. Paskett Addresses Plot Holders.

ROCK SOCIETY MEETING.

14.10.29

Mr. A. T. Paskett (County Horticultural Adviser) gave an interesting account of the recent potato trials at the annual meeting of the Rock Allotments Society, Ltd., in the Assembly Rooms, Cherryhinton-road, last evening.

The President (Mr. W. J. Dear) was in the chair, supported by Mr. R. S. Cleaver (secretary), Mr. George Newman (treasurer) and a fair attendance of members.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The Committee reported that little progress had been made in the development of the land under their control.

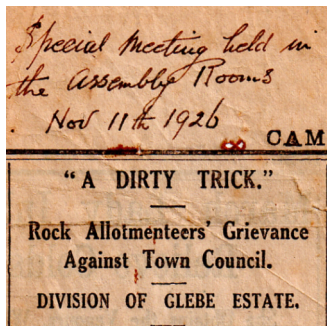
Mr. R. S. Cleaver took over the secretarial duties in March last.

Chances for members of this society at the Great Autumn Show were again in the schedule, and more members competed. Several of the society's plot holders exhibited in the open classes with considerable success.

In the spring the Committee purchased and re-sold Scotch seed potatoes, and the abnormally dry season had proved the value of this seed.

Cambridge Independent Press

- 1920 An underlease between the Society and the Town Council let 29 acres of land to the Society for seven years.
- 1922 Allotments Act meant tenancies were "better protected under six months' notice and compensation" (Cllr John Conder). Formation of the Cambridge Central Council of Allotment Societies – "the backbone of the allotment movement in Cambridge" (S Braine).
- 1925 Mr W J Dear, a founder member, was elected President and would serve for 29 years.
- 1928 Death of Mr William Hawkins, one of the first Councillors for Cambridge Without Ward and an early RAS committee member.



1926: ALLOTMENTS v HOUSES

The Town Council's action in allocating 16½ acres of the Glebe Estate for allotments, after promising 20 acres, was criticised at a special meeting of the Rock Allotment Society.

Mr Dear told "a crowded attendance" that "The Council purchased the land [44 acres] with the specific object of 20 acres for allotments and the remainder for housing. There was, however, only about 16½ acres, including hedges, ditches and roadways."

Nevertheless, in 1928 the Society agreed to take over the 16½ acres as permanent allotments, giving RAS security of tenure.

