

# 1945-59: The Post-War Years



The end of the War brought some changes: there were no extra duties such as fire-watching or Home Guard taking up plottolders' time, and bonfires were allowed so it was possible to get rid of those infected potato haulms. However, rationing continued and plottolders had to contend with the severe conditions of the long winter of 1947.

There was concern that allotment land would be taken for temporary housing or playing-fields. Mr Newman reported that the Central Council of Allotments "had a battle royal with the Council...and had come out on top".

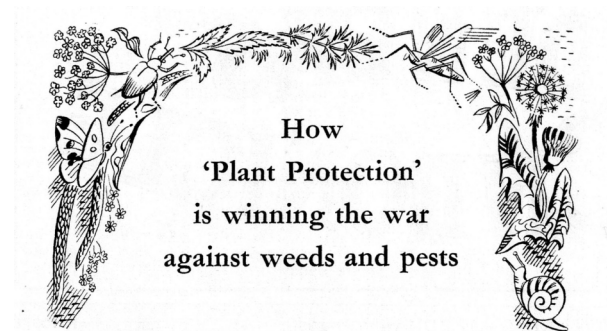
*Michael Butler, then aged four, is seen on the left with the horse which had pulled a cart of manure to the allotments in 1956. Michael is the grandson of founder member Mr W Dear and the son of Mr C Butler, who would later also become Chairman.*

## Potatoes – again

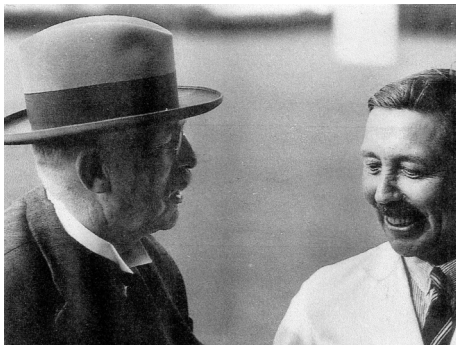
The war against ell worm continued. In 1947 "a new gun discharged carbonide sulphide into the soil" and in 1948 "Vaporite gas was to be tried". In 1950 following the annual plot inspection it was noted that "ell worm sufferers are plain to see" and the Committee could not understand why the tenants still persisted in growing potatoes.

Following the hard winter of 1947 scotch seed potatoes did not arrive at the Hut until June 1948 as the clamps had been frozen and buried under snow.

Illustration from the *Gardener's Chronicle* (1952)



## Some notable Members and events



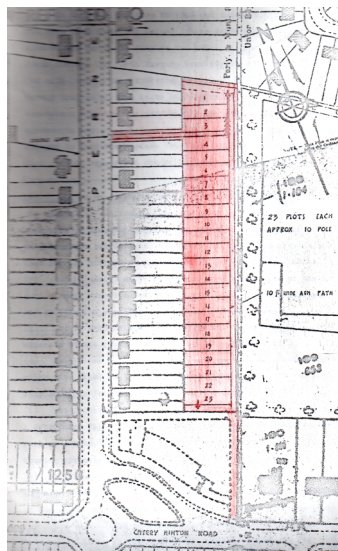
**1954** Death of Mr W Dear. He was a founder member, elected to the first Committee in 1916 and Chairman for 29 years at the time of his death. He worked at the Cavendish Laboratories for 50 years and set up many of the experiments of Ernest Rutherford, the father of nuclear physics. They are seen together (left) in a photograph reproduced courtesy of Michael Butler.

**1955** Mr Brignell reported the death of "our hard-working Treasurer, Mr George Newman – another great loss to our Society and the allotment movement...he will be missed by many". He had been involved since 1920 and had served as Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. He was active in the Cambridge Central Council of Allotments and a delegate to the National Allotments Society.

### 1955 The Saga of the Latrine

At the AGM "Mr H asked if a latrine could be erected somewhere on his section as it was needed, especially by older members. He did not mind if one was fixed on his plot as it was thought not every member would agree to have it put on theirs". At the Committee meeting following the annual plot inspection Mr Rundall asked what had happened about the urinal on Mr H's plot. The Secretary said he had had complaints from nearby plottolders, saying "it looked everything what it was supposed to be and did not look nice for people in nearby houses seeing a man go in".

Some Committee members thought it would not look so bad if it had a roof, but it also infringed the Society's rules by not being in line 3ft from the roadway. It was resolved that the Secretary should get in touch with Mr H regarding his urinal....



**1956** RAS acquired 23 new plots at Perne Road.

Map from City Council archives



Ken Bright became a member of RAS in 1954. He has served on the Committee and as plot manager and his service of over 50 years was recognised by the Society in 2009. Ken (93) has now given up his plot, but still gardens at home.

*With thanks to members for their memories and photographs*