The 1970s: The Good Life

1970 Plans for the New Headquarters were described as "a fine building and great asset".

RAS members lived The Good Life in the seventies and 1974 was described by the Chairman as "a wonderful year with all plots let and a waiting list".

In the Cambridge Evening News Mr Harold Robinson, Secretary of the Cambridge Central Council for Allotments spoke of the increasing popularity of allotments, with many people anxious to join the self-sufficiency trend.

1976 The Society celebrated its 60th anniversary with a Prize Draw and gave a rent-free year to all OAPs. The draw was made by Professor Fergus Wilson: Mr Peters won 2 stone of fertiliser, Mrs Wilkinson a garden net, Dr Strangeways two pairs of garden gloves, Mr Amey a Stanley spade and Mr Bird a £2 voucher.

Geoff Meaby (left) was Trading Officer from 1970-94. At the AGM on 8 March 1976 he was presented with Life Membership of the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners. In 1977 the Secretary spoke of "the good work put in by Geoff Meaby...a tremendous increase in orders". Three years before, the gross turnover had been £500, but it had now topped £5,000.

Mr Percy Brignall died in 1976. He had been Chairman since 1955 – only the third in the long history of the Society. Mr C Butler took over as Acting Chairman.

In 1970 work began to clear the Baldock Way ditch in the hopes of alleviating the longstanding flooding problem.

In 1971, with the introduction of decimal coinage, rent was set at £1.25 for a 10-pole plot.

At the 1972 AGM it was noted that "there were a few ladies present".

In 1976 "a slackness in paying rents was reported at the AGM.

At the 1979 AGM Professor Fergus Wilson gave a talk on compost.