

# St Lesmo Road Allotments, Edgeley

On 10th June 1932, a Council meeting of the Smallholdings and Allotments Committee recommended that just over 2 acres of land be purchased for £200 and St Lesmo Rd Allotments was formed.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Saint Lesmo of Glentamire was a Celtic Saint, a Holy Hermit who lived in Glen Tanar, Aberdeenshire over 1,000 years ago. The Chapel of St Lesmo, built in 1872 from the ruins of the House of Braeloigne, is dedicated to him.

**DID YOU KNOW?** St Lesmo Rd is shown on maps by 1899. Some people believe St Lesmo Rd was meant to be St Elmo Rd after Saint Elmo, the less obscure Christian patron saint of sailors.

The 1887 Allotments Act, the 1892 Smallholding Act, and the 1908 Smallholding & Allotments Act gave local authorities the power to acquire land for municipal allotments.

At a Council meeting of the Smallholdings and Allotments Committee on 13th May 1932, a letter from Messrs. Pierce & Sons was read out stating the price they would advise the owners to sell the land on St Lesmo Rd to be used as allotments. The meeting resolved to enter into negotiations to acquire the land. The Council were also arranging to buy land for Brinnington Rise Allotments, and a determined delegation of people from Brinnington addressed the Committee.

It was around this time that the Council also started the allotments scheme for unemployed persons.



Some Committee members  
top row: Wilf, Linda, Rick  
bottom row: Ian & Steve





Spring 2014 at St Lesmo Rd Allotments

our tea hut



and a brick-built mains toilet to die for!



Rick triumphs at the Stockport Horticultural Society Show 2014





Every Summer, we hold a bar-b-q where members bring family and friends to enjoy the day together







Top: Martin proudly displays his Numex Twilight chillies from "Peppers by Post"; Ian, Helen and Roland; Centre: Linda and grandson Eden planting strawberries; Bottom: Rick and Ben weeding; and Ken & Terry





Visitors to St Lesmo Rd Allotments this year include Phil from Reddish Vale Allotments, Richard from Torkington Allotments, and local councillors Sheila Bailey, Philip Harding and Richard Coaton enjoy a cuppa!





St Lesmo Road Allotments has always had problems with drainage. As early as February 1934, the Council were investigating a drain from St Lesmo Rd Allotments which was flooding another allotment site. I wonder if it was the private allotments that used to be alongside us, on the site of the Stockport Academy until 1974. They had a pond full of fish; this was the natural drainage for the area. When the private allotments were sold off, Terry helped to bucket carp and perch over to Sykes's Reservoir to save them before the pond was filled in.

On 9 October 1989, the Stockport Express reported *Allotment floods ruin their crops*, when 14 of the 27 plots became waterlogged. Terry Connor, who was Secretary at the time, blamed the flooding on filling in the pond. The water was reported to be coming from Edgeley reservoirs. We believe that two houses nearby were demolished due to subsidence caused by poor drainage. Cellars in nearby houses have pumps fitted and get flooded even now if there is heavy rain.

There used to be a well at the end of all the plots, but they were filled in when water was piped onto the site. We have constructed several soakaways, and last year we got a grant from Community First to put drains in the worst affected plots.

We plan to have our first Open Day in 2017 to celebrate the allotments 85th birthday.