THORPE HAMLET HISTORY GROUP

Article 13 : ALLOTMENTS TO THE RESCUE
By Robin Bowling

Allotments in Thorpe Hamlet helped in the war effort in the first and second world wars.

The railway provided some allotment gardens at the back of the Harbour Triangle in the Crown Point area.There were more allotments in Plumstead Road where the Wild Stallion dance ranch is now.Further allotments were at the the lower endso Mousehold allotments at the back of Sprowston Road.

The allotment gardens at Crown Point owned by the railway company and possibly Lawrence and Scott's.The Wild Stallion was possibly leased to the council for the duration of the great war.

Pigs were kept on Kett's Heights and more land was put down to cultivation in back gardens where lawns were dug up and planted with potatoes, and flower beds with cabbages and leeks.

Thorpe Hamlet did it's bit to grow food in the time of wartime shortages.In the first world war there was as little as two weeks food in country and things were not much better in the second world war.

All these allotments are gone now; many of them built on in the 1960s or returned to the companies that made the land available after the wars.

Today the folk of Thorpe Hamlet do their allotmenteering in Plumstead Road East at Cottage Farm Allotments in the Heartsease area or at Mousehold Allotments at the back of Sprowston Road.