

AN ARTICLE FROM A LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Robert Penshaw was born in 1906 and married when he was twenty four years old. When the war started in 1939 he had three children. He was a miner and worked night shift at the local Colliery so he was exempt from the Armed Forces.

He had an allotment filled with beautifully regimented rows of vegetables where he worked every afternoon. Fruit bushes and trees were at the top of it. He started to sell vegetables to the men at work as he had a surplus to his requirements.

As food was rationed and in short supply, he pushed a wheelbarrow through the streets and sold vegetables and fruit to anyone who could afford them. Later he bought a horse and cart as his goods were in great demand. Any unsold fruit his wife made into jam and it was sold the next day. He also sold sticks and logs for fires and a variety of pickles.

In the early fifties he rented a shop but still delivered to elderly people who had been his customers for years. He also branched out and rented another shop in the neighbouring village which his eldest son ran. They had acquired a market garden and were the main suppliers in the area.

Robert is now 70 years old and has retired to Spain. He lives in a detached villa with a swimming pool. There's lots of land next to his Villa and he decided to buy it. He employs local labour to cultivate it. He grows almost every kind of vegetable including peppers, aubergines, herbs and exotic flowers, which he supplies to Asda in England. He owns his own aeroplane that flies daily to the main Depot. He has now sold all his shops and got an excellent price for his market garden which is now a housing estate.

Once upon a time he was a hard working miner with no money. Now he's a millionaire and his two grandsons run the business. He went from rags to riches but still has a small vegetable patch at the back of the villa. He said he loved to see the plants grow and enjoyed eating them.

Stella Rutherford