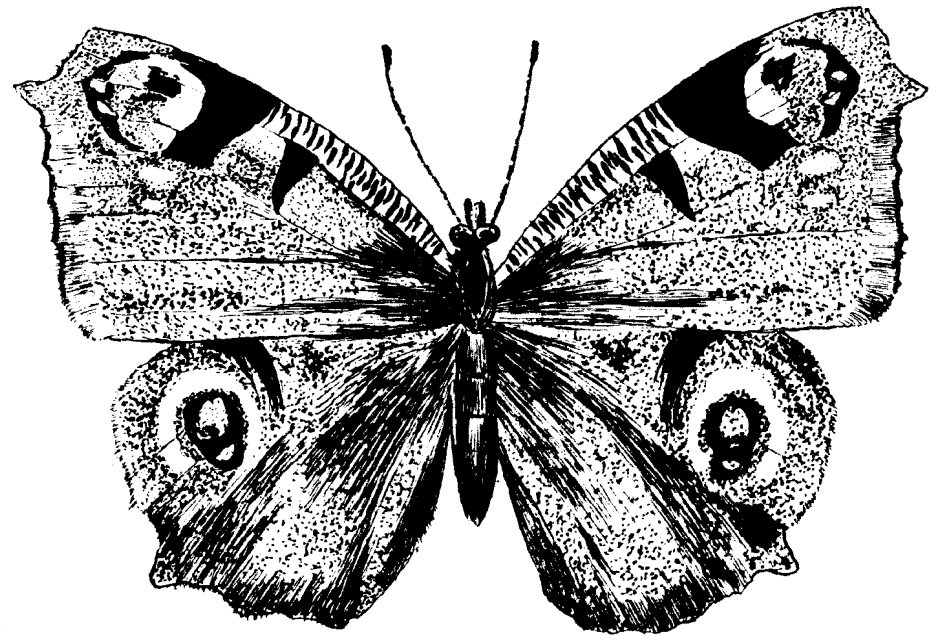
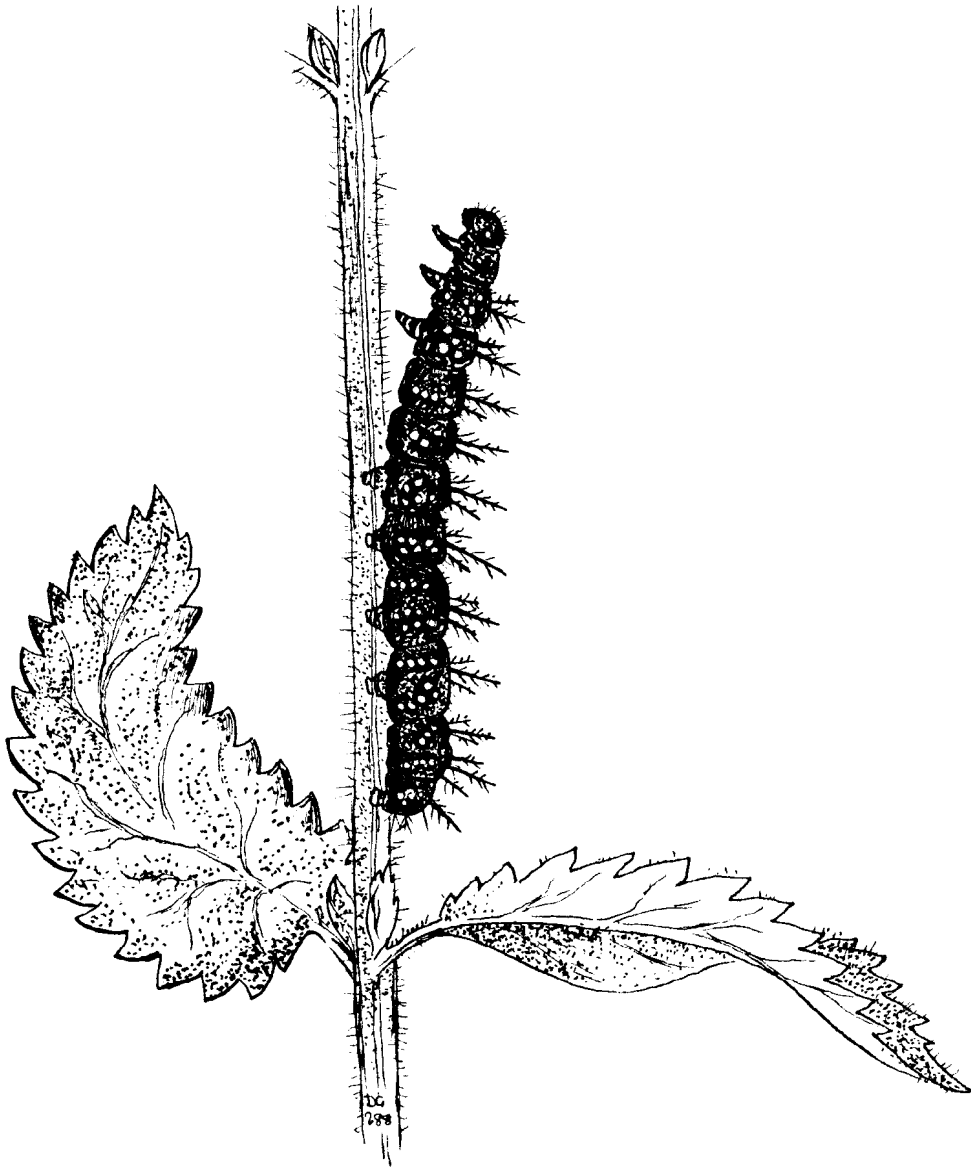


# THE DONCASTER NATURALIST



# THE DONCASTER NATURALIST

## Volume 1, No. 9

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### EDITORIAL

March 1st.1988

I hope that you will enjoy our magazine this Spring and that you will consider it a worthwhile record to keep on your bookshelf.

Ian Mc.Donald's article on Walnut trees in the Doncaster area is a very comprehensive account,perhaps the Summer will see us all out 'spotting' the walnut trees which he lists!

In foremost place in this issue we have an appreciation of George Hyde who died in 1986.President of the Doncaster Naturalists' Society for several years,he was a well-known local naturalist of both national and international repute.

On Wednesday,June 8th.two of our members,Trice and Eric Bingham have invited the Society to enjoy a Summer evening in their garden (which includes an unusual wild garden).Trice has written an article for us on how the garden was made from the original scrubby 'common' land after they moved into the newly built house.

I hope that many more of you will be inspired by these articles to put pen to paper yourselves,and produce further items of interest for the next magazine.



GEORGE EDWARD HYDE F.R.E.S.  
1902 - 1986

# GEORGE HYDE F.R.E.S.

W. E. Rimington

Martin Limbert

It was with great regret and sadness that relatives, friends and naturalists learned of the death of George Hyde at the age of 83. Many tributes were subsequently paid to George's life and work, and it was increasingly felt that some memorial to him and his achievements should be considered, most appropriately in his home town of Doncaster. For the fifty years prior to his death George had been a distinguished member of the Royal Entomological Society, London, an honour which he took most seriously. It was eventually decided to link a regional meeting of the R.E.S. with the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union Entomological Section, Doncaster Naturalists' Society and Doncaster Museum and Arts Service, to produce a special George Hyde Memorial Symposium. Because of George's interest in the Doncaster peatlands, especially Hatfield Moors, coupled with the current national threats to these habitats, the theme was appropriately determined as "the Lowland Peatlands of England". The symposium held in May 1987 At Doncaster Museum, was well attended, and the day's proceedings included in the presence of George's wife, Kate, an oral appreciation of him by W.E.R. and the unveiling by Councillor E.E.Jones, Chairman of the Doncaster M.B.C.Museums and Libraries Sub-committee, of a memorial plaque. This states:

GEORGE EDWARD HYDE F.R.E.S.,  
1902 - 1986

In Memory of the Doncaster Naturalist  
and Author  
President of the  
Doncaster Naturalists' Society  
in 1931, 1958 and 1979  
A pioneer natural history photographer  
and a renowned entomologist  
specialising in lepidoptera.  
His fine collection of  
butterflies and moths  
were presented to the  
Doncaster Museum and Arts Service  
after his death.  
They remain an outstanding tribute  
to his life and work".

The purpose of the notes which follow, expanding an earlier obituary (the Naturalist III:67-68) is to present an appreciation of George, to explain why his death prompted so much genuine esteem and regret.

Born in Doncaster in 1902, George's family background was an academic one. His father, a native of Stockport, was head master of Hyde Park School in Doncaster, and George was educated at Doncaster Grammar School. He took up employment at the Railway Plant in Doncaster initially as a trainee mechanical engineer. In his early career an event from the General Strike of 1926 is noteworthy. George, always an Establishment figure, and not without courage, defied the strikers by driving a locomotive over a level crossing at Denaby. Four years later, in 1930, George married Kathleen Bailey, an arts and crafts teacher, and a young lady of determination and talent. She was to prove a pillar of support throughout their long and devoted marriage. Her artistic and organisational abilities were of great value to George, especially in his later, freelance years. Kate recalls vividly the many entomological outings which they enjoyed together in the 1920's. Her motorcycle was their usual means of travel; Kate was only the second woman in Yorkshire to own and run a motorcycle, and she was able to overhaul and rebuild the machine herself. During the Second World War George became Personnel Officer at a Doncaster Armaments works, known locally as Fowler's Tank Factory. Later, however, he returned to the Plant, where he remained in a managerial capacity until his retirement in 1950, when he took up full-time natural history writing and photography. George's interest in natural history started at an early age, focussed first on ornithology and botany, but later increasingly on entomology. He joined Doncaster Scientific (later Naturalists') Society in 1917, and was subsequently to be its President in 1931-2, 1958-62 and, by invitation in its centenary year, 1979-80. It was doubtless in his first year's membership that George was fortunate enough to make the acquaintance of Dr.H.H.Corbett, a multi-faceted

and widely respected naturalist, whose death was to occur only four years later. He immediately gained George's life long admiration and affection. This stemmed from Corbett's patience and friendship, so important to a youthful kindred spirit, which was probably sharpened by the loss of Corbett's own son on active service in 1918. They undertook forays together, and on one of these in 1917, George took the last known Doncaster specimen of the High Brown Fritillary, *Argynnis adippe*, a poorly conditioned male, at Martin Beck. During these early years (1917-1936), George also amassed a collection of birds' eggs, taken widely in England, including many from the Doncaster district. These were later donated to Doncaster Museum, where many of them still are to this day.

George began to travel widely in Britain in pursuit of his increasingly dominant interest in Lepidoptera. He recalled how he would set off from Doncaster railway station in the early hours, and board a King's Cross express, eventually alighting at Peterborough, then cycling to the Huntingdonshire woods, one of his favourite hunting grounds. He spent the entire day hunting, returning home around midnight. "My father said it was crackers", he remembered, but wisely seems not to have dissuaded such eager endeavour. With the Lepidoptera as his driving passion, but nevertheless retaining wider natural history interests, George travelled with Kate to many localities of note in Britain. "when I had had enough", said Kate, "I used to return to the car and knit". His preferred home territory was probably Hatfield Moors, east of Doncaster, where he spent many rewarding hours with family and friends. Perhaps recalling his happy, youthful outings with Dr.Corbett, George delighted in taking Kate and his niece for midnight picnics on the moors. The light trap was set up and rook pie was on the menu.

In addition to the Doncaster Naturalists' Society and the Royal Entomological Society, George was a member of the British Entomological and Natural History Society and the Nature Photographic Society. Despite remaining a Doncaster inhabitant, George gained a wide circle of friends and acquaintances in the worlds of natural history and wild life.

These included some of the foremost naturalists of their time. Dr. Corbett was perhaps the first, but others included Eric Hosking, Baron Charles de Worms and F.W. Frohawk. Like most of his lepidopterist colleagues, George regarded a collection as the essence of his interest. He became an acclaimed breeder of butterflies and moths, which not only allowed him to choose exceptionally fine and interesting specimens for his collection, but also provided excellent material for his camera. His magnificent collection came to be regarded as one of the finest still remaining in private hands in Britain. Now housed in Doncaster Museum, through Kate's generosity and foresight, the meticulously set and arranged insects, displayed in superb wooden cabinets, include a number of historic specimens. These include an outstanding series of colour variants of the Cinnabar *Tyria jacobaea*, and examples of the 'white' small copper *Lycaena phlaeas ab.schmidtii*, the 'rayed' Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus ab.radiata* and a gynandrous example of the Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni*. These latter two specimens are figured in A.D.A. Russwurm's *Aberrations of British Butterflies*, published in 1978. Emphasising his skill as a lepidoptera breeder, George was particularly proud of a fine series of the Queen of Spain *Fritillaria, Argynnis lathonia*, which he reared from a female he captured in Devon in 1949. With characteristic generosity, he has disposed of part of this series to other collectors. His early writing was for the Doncaster Chronicle, with regular weekly contributions, though he subsequently wrote and photographically illustrated many articles, features, papers and notes for a wide range of journals and magazines. These included the *Entomologists' Record*, *Entomologist*, *Naturalist*, *Birds and Country Magazine*, *Countryman*, *Country Life*, *Field*, *Amateur Gardening* and *Practical Gardening*. In addition, he was the author of a number of books and booklets, primarily aimed at school and general circulation. The first of these was "The Ways of Dragonflies", published in 1947 for the Daily Mail School Aid Department, to be followed by several books for Blacks, "A Pocket Book of British Insects" (1949), "A Pocket Book of British Moths" (1950), "British Butterflies"

(1950) and "British Insects". For E.J. Arnold he wrote "The Kingfishers of Clayton Bottom" (1953), followed by two series entitled "Through Nature's Window" (1954) and "exploring Nature" (1962). In 1957 he published "Looking at Butterflies" with L. Hugh Newman, for Collins, and in 1959 he produced four books in Hulton Educational Publications Series "Nature's Ways". Again for Hulton George subsequently penned books in their "Read and Discover" series.

Some of George's finest colour photographs have appeared in the Jarrold booklets. His photographic work has, however, appeared internationally, including a recent edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. George's photographic career commenced with a quarter-plate camera in 1930. His early interest in photography was probably at least partially inspired by contact with Kate's father, who had formerly worked in London for Kodak. George's interest led him not only to illustrate and lecture but also to develop techniques for close work on insects and to become one of the pioneers in the use of colour in natural history photography. George recalled how, in the years after the Second World War, film was almost unobtainable and, before it could be procured a case for scientific use had to be made out. At that time, mistakes and wastage were unacceptable - every shot had to count.

George was a committed humanitarian and conservationist, and in his later years he became deeply concerned for what he called the 'street corner' generation. These were the young people who had little or no understanding of the natural world. This concern was always evident in his writing, much of which was deliberately educational. His anxiety, arising from the destruction of wild places, reflected both his own attitude to the events and a feeling of loss for younger generations. In his expansive moments, his eyes would shine as he recalled the great days of his own youth, spent in the company of family or friends, on Hatfield Moors, or further afield in the Rannoch Mountains, the Huntingdonshire woodlands, the New Forest or on the Sussex Downs. These times and places meant everything to him, but to the end his desire to live was indestructible: "Just five more years, I have so much to do". However, spared from the physical disabilities which were overtaking him, George died at home, with Kate as ever beside him, on 15th January, 1986.

# WALNUTS

Ian Mc.Donald

During a conversation with Colin Howes of Doncaster Museum. it was suggested that a walnut tree survey of the Doncaster area would be a useful exercise. I had already noted several trees in the vicinity of the town but had not been looking too closely as the Museum Data Bank records listed 22 localities. I realised there were more walnut trees than I had suspected

Not having a defined area in mind, I travelled the district trying to cover as much ground as possible, from large villages to the more outlying areas. The following is the result..

## WALNUT Juglans regia.

There seems to be some confusion as to when this tree was introduced to Britain, and where it came from. It is variously called English Walnut or Persian Walnut and is said to be native to Asia Minor, Iran, Greece and the Himalayas.

## Origins

Walnuts were known by the Greeks as Caryon, from kara, a head. There were two explanations for this. One is that the odour from the walnut was thought to cause headache. (the leaves are said to give off a spicy aroma). Another reason is that the kernel is thought to resemble a brain.

The walnut was known to the Romans as Jupiter's mast, since it was as superior to other woods for making masts as Jupiter was to lesser gods.

In old English it was wealth, meaning foreign, and knut, a nut. This would imply that it was introduced to Britain as far back as at least Medieval times.

Evidence of walnut remains have been found in various archaeological excavations.

Pitt-Rivers identified charcoal from the Roman site at Rotherham.

Dennels recognised walnut remains from Medieval Plymouth.

Evidence was also found at Jorvik, the Viking site at York

Pollen grains analysed from Old Buckenham Mere were from Norman levels. Although remains of the walnut have been discovered dating back to Roman times, there is no conclusive proof that the trees were cultivated in Britain at that time.

## Description

The walnut, when given room to attain the size of a stately tree, can attain a height of 100 feet, with a large spread of branches. The bark is grey and smooth when young but develops deep furrows as the tree matures. In winter it can be recognised by its stout branches, but in summer they are almost hidden by the mass of leaves. The leaves resemble those of the ash tree.

The flowers, which are wind-pollinated, are borne in early spring and can be damaged by frost. The male and female flowers are separate but occur on the same tree, much like those of the hazel. In English folklore, the profuse flowering of the walnut heralds a good harvest, the reverse is the case when there is an abundance of rich foliage and few blossoms.

The fruit is like a large, green plum and can be picked in July and pickled, or left until it falls from the tree. They can then be stored in their shells in a dry place and saved until Christmas if you wish.

## Cultivation

The trees should be planted in an open situation, in October or November, in a sandy or calcareous soil or still loam or gravelly sub-soils.

"He who plants a walnut tree expects not to eat of the fruit". (Thomas Fuller 1732) This saying was meant to mean that a walnut took a long time to get to the fruiting

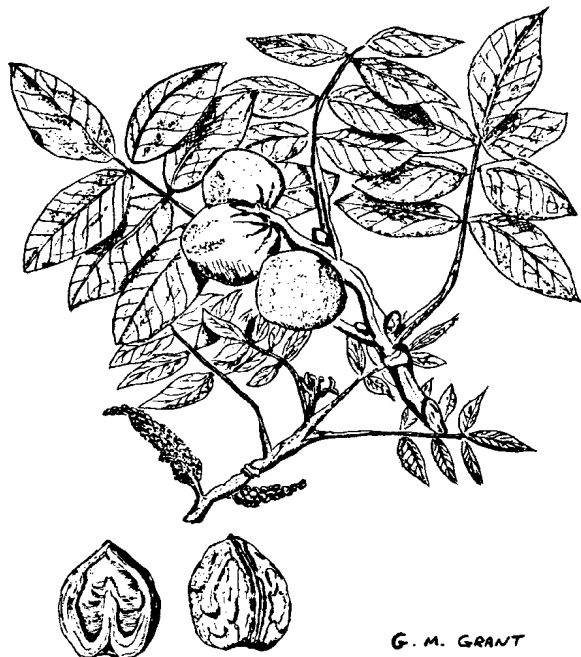
stage. On average the tree should mature at about 20 years old. Walnuts can now be grown as bush trees to keep them to a size more suitable to smaller gardens. Grafted specimens can be bought which have a known cropping capability whether for pickling or for dessert.

"A woman, a whelp and a walnut tree, the more you bash  
"em the better they be". This probably relates to a custom  
of thrashing the trees in order to be sure of a good  
harvest. I think the same custom is applied to apple  
trees for the production of cider apples.

The average lifespan of a walnut tree is said to be 300  
years. Rooks are said to like walnuts and it has been  
suggested that they are responsible for spreading the range  
of the tree. Quite how this is achieved I am not sure,  
unless they drop the nut from the air to break the shell.  
then cannot find it afterwards.

#### Propagation

Sow the seeds 2 inches deep in light soil outdoors in  
November, transplant the seedlings in the following October.  
One bushel of nuts will yield about 5,000 seedlings.



G. M. GRANT

#### Uses

##### Food

The walnut has long been grown as a food source. Each  
tree can bear as much as 150 pounds of nuts a year, although  
there are good and bad years as with any fruit trees.

There are about 3000 calories per pound of fruit and in  
the green state three times as much vitamin C as Orange  
Juice. Walnuts contain 18% protein and 60% fat.

##### Medicine

Many uses were made of the walnut tree in medicine. Nicholas  
Culpeper, the 17th century herbalist mentions its properties  
in staying the falling of the hair. Also the  
juice of the green twigs, boiled with honey, is an  
excellent gargle for sore mouths.

"If the leaves are taken fresh with onions, salt and  
honey, they help the bites of mad dogs or poisonous bits  
of any kind.

"The distilled water of the green leaves in the end of May  
cures foul running ulcers and sores, to be bathed with wet  
cloths or sponges applied to them every morning."

##### Horticulture

John Evelyn, the 17th century diarist stated that the twigs  
and leaves of walnut, macerated in warm water, formed a  
mixture which, when poured on to bowling green and lawns  
killed the worms without endangering the grass.

I don't know why people would want to kill worms which are  
providing a free drainage and aeration system, except that  
worm casts are unsightly on lawns. They can easily be  
brushed level.

##### Furniture

In his 'Naturall Historie' of 1626, Bacon mentions the  
virtues of walnut as "a wood for tables, cupboards and  
desks, but it is less durable than oak and subject to  
woodworm attack."

The serious cultivation of walnut trees began during the

reign of Elizabeth I and came to maturity during the reign of Charles II, when walnut became the fashion. The so called 'Age of Walnut' furniture was approximately 1660 - 1730. At first the wood was used in the solid state but as it became scarcer and therefore more expensive it was used as a veneer. Severe frosts in Europe in 1709 caused the destruction of many trees and as a result France stopped exporting walnut wood from 1720. The average weight of timber is 47 pounds per cubic foot.

Black walnut, *Juglans nigra*, is said to have been introduced to Britain from America in 1650. It has brown bark with narrow ridges. The wood from Black Walnut was used in World War I for the propellers of aeroplanes as it withstood the violent forces produced when rotated rapidly. Many trees were felled to be used for rifle stocks in World War II.

Two specimens of *J. nigra* can be found at Owston, where past owners of the Hall are said to have planted two of every type of tree native to Europe.

#### The Walnut in Local History

A chair installed in the Friends' Meeting House in Doncaster was made from the wood of two walnut trees. This chair along with another chair and a table were made from walnut trees which grew in an orchard at Rose Farm, at the junction of Cross Street and Warmsworth Road, Balby. One chair was presented to the Headquarters of the Society of Friends or Quakers at Friends' House, London.

It was under the two walnut trees that George Fox (1624-91), the founder of Quakerism, preached when he visited the Doncaster district. The trees were said to be 500 years old when they were blown down in a gale in January, 1928.

Ancestors of the Warde-Aldam family of Frickley Hall were among the group that accepted the message of George Fox at Balby. Rose Farm remained the property of the Warde-Aldam family until 1930. Mr. Warde-Aldam would not allow the walnut trees to be touched as long as they were spared by the weather and on their account he refused offers for the purchase of the land.

#### Summary

As can be seen the walnut tree has played an important part in man's past, with places named after it. From Doncaster Borough Judicial Records, 1454-1806 one Mr. Robert Issot was fined for a broken pavement over against Walnuttree Garth, the figure was not stated.

There is a walnut Tree Hill at Wadworth, opposite a walnut tree, also the village hall is known as Walnut Tree Hall.

In Europe the tree was thought of more highly.

After wedding ceremonies in Ancient Rome, it was the custom of the bridegroom to throw walnuts among the children to indicate he was no longer a child.

John Evelyn wrote: "in several places in Germany, no young farmer whatsoever is permitted to marry a wife till he hath planted and is a father of such a stated number of walnut trees and the law is inviolably observed to this day for the extraordinary benefit which this tree affords the inhabitants".

Also - 'whenever they fell a tree in Burgundy, which is only the old and decayed, they always plant a young one near him'. In parts of Switzerland and Czechoslovakia they are grown along the highways and are the property of the village communities.

In France walnuts are so valued that landowners assess the rental value of a mature tree the same as an acre of ploughland.

The age of the trees covered in the survey seems to vary a great deal, judging from the size of the



specimens. There are some magnificent examples,

like the one in the grounds of Tickhill Priory, the one at Campsall, the fine groups at Cantley Hall and Barnby Dun and the group associated with an orchard, at South Wongs, Tickhill.

Some of the trees are to be found at farms, while others are in villages or the grounds of halls.

Tickhill has at present the highest number of trees with at least 42 specimens. This number would be higher but quite a few have been cut down with recent house-building. This is a black mark for Tickhill for as long ago as 1804, Miller in his History of Doncaster noted "Tickhill is famed for its walnuts". Loversall was also known for its walnut trees which have all but disappeared. Hatfield has at least 17 trees.

Some trees are to be found away from any buildings, such as the ones at Northfield, Barnby Dun and may be indicators of an old settlement, as trees were usually grown close to the home.

The tree in the Old Quarry at Newton is probably not old enough to be associated with the deserted mediaeval village but could have been sown by chance. The one on the railway near Sprotborough may have been bird sown or possibly by some far sighted railwayman.

An old walnut tree standing amid modern property is a good indication of a former habitation, probably a farm. The removal of walnut trees at such places as Loversall Park, Wadworth, Tickhill cricket ground, Lindrick and other sites for housing, road building or because of disease etc. should be followed by the planting of young specimens to ensure a continuing succession of trees.

Walnuts bought at a local supermarket were labelled "Produce of China". Perhaps some enterprising person could collect the fruit from local trees and sell them at Doncaster market!

It would be a useful exercise if someone were to correlate the trees to the age of the properties they were associated with.

# Walnut Localities

Map Ref.	Mite Present	Locality	No. of trees	Date	Recorder
SE 541084	-	Adwick-le-St. Town Hall Gr'ds.	2	-12.86	I. Mc.D
SE 542085	-	" Model Farm	1	"	"
SE 543085	-	" Grounds, Ivy H'se	1	"	"
SE 540088	-	" Mill Lane	1	-3.87	"
SE 588083	-	Almholme	1	-12.86	"
SE 591081	-	Almholme Grange	1	8.3.87	"
*SE 6501	M	Auckley	1	.86	J.M.
SE 653007	-	" ,Rear of 67, Main Street	1	25.1.87	I. Mc.D
*SE 4615	-	Badsworth, Rogerthorpe Manor	1	6.12.86	C. A. H.
*SE 5600	-	Balby-Low Road Area	1	1986	E.B.
SE 5600	-	Balby--St. Catherine's Hospital	Several	7.2.87	M.W.
SE 485033	-	Barnburgh-- Wadworth Close	1	1.2.87	I. Mc.D
SE 616093	-	Barnby Dun, Rear Gents Barbers	1	.12.86	H.D.
SE 615098	-	" Opposite Church	8	. 2.87	I. Mc.D.
SE 609103	-	" North Field	5	. 2.87	J.S.
SE 619090	-	" Garden opp. White Hart	1	3.87	I. Mc.D
SK 6593	-	Bawtry, 71, Station Rd.	1	25.1.87	"
SK 653941	-	" Gally Hills	1	25.1.87	E.T.
SK 651931	-	" Tickhill Rd.	1	1.3.87	I. Mc.D
SK 653932	-	" Station Rd. Priory Cott.	1	"	"
SK 670996	-	Blaxton 2, Station View	1	25.1.87	"
SE 639017	-	Branton..Brockholes Lane	3	25.1.87	"
SE 507074	-	Brodsworth	1	1.2.87	"
*SE 5413	-	Campsall Park	1	1977	P.S.
*SE 5413	-	" "	1	1984	D.N.S
SE 542138	-	Campsall Village	1	12.86	I. Mc.D.
SE 627022	-	Cantley..former Farm	1	12.86	"
SE 627023	-	" Rear of St. Margarets	1	25.1.87	"
SE 627023	-	" Rear of Holmes Lea	1	"	"
SE 628025	-	" Nether Cantley Lane	1	"	D.G.A.
SE 666040	-	" Gate Farm	2	22.2.87	I. Mc.D
*SE 4507	-	Clayton	1	7.10.81	D.G.D.
SK 520964	-	Clifton..near Church	1	8.3.87	I. Mc.D.
*SE 5403	-	Cusworth Park	1	1986	J.L.
*SE 5803	-	Doncaster--Town Fields	1	1976	P.S. C.J.D. C.A.H.
SE 642077	-	Dunsville, Park Lane Farm	1	.2.87	I. Mc.D.

Map Ref.	Mite Present	Locality	No. of Trees	Date	Recorder
*SZ 5498	-	Woodhouse Garden, Edlington Wood	1	1971	WE PS CAH
SK 534973	-	Old Edlington	1	8.3.87	I. Mc.D.
SK 671990	-	Fimmingley Bear Horse & Stag P.H.	2	25.1.87	"
SE 653133	-	Fishlake....Dirty Lane	1	2.87	"
*SE 5010	M	Hampole—in Hall Grounds	1	25.9.86	C.A.H.
SE 507105	-	" in field nr. Railway	1	3.87	I. Mc.D.
*SE 6609	-	Hatfield..High Street.	1	—	P.S.
*SE "	-	" 11, Station Road	Several	1986	C.A.H.
SE "	-	" " "	2	-2.87	I. Mc.D
SE "	-	" 9, " "	1	"	"
SE "	-	" The Grange P.H. Manor RD	1	"	"
SE "	-	" The Stables, Manor Rd.	1	"	"
SE "	-	" High Street, Bear No.17	2	"	"
SE "	-	" " Bear No.24	1	"	"
SE "	-	" " No.43	1	"	"
SE "	-	" " No.49	1	"	"
SE "	-	" "Box tree House	1	"	"
SE "	-	" " Rear Meth. Church	1	"	"
SE "	-	" " Jot. old Thorne Rd.	1	"	"
SE "	-	" " Ivy Close	1	"	"
SE 6509	-	Ash Hill Crescent	3	"	"
SE 684090	-	Hatfield Woodhouse. Tithes Farm	1	"	"
SE 6708	-	" " Mayville	1	"	"
SE 672082	-	" " Hale Hill Lane	3	"	"
SE 670085	-	" " Balk End Farm	2	"	"
SE 662076	-	" " Walnut H'se near Ruans Depot	1	"	"
*SK 6295	-	Hesley Hall	1	11.8.81	D.G.D
SE 559022	-	Hexthorpe..Manor House	1	8.3.87	I. Mc.D
SK 487972	-	Hooton Roberts	1	1.2.87	"
SE 619118	-	Kirk Bramwith	2	12.86	"
—	-	Littleborough on Trent—Old Vicarage	1	25.1.87	M. J.D.
*SK 5798	M	Loversall	1	1981	C.A.H.
SK 574985	-	" Rakes Lane	1	7.2.87	I. Mc.D.
SK 573988	-	" opp. Skipwith Close	1	"	"
SK 576986	-	Loversall Hall	2	8.3.87	"
SK 574989	-	" Park	1	"	D.S.
*SE 5105	-	Marr	1	8.9.81	D.G.D
SE 518053	-	" Hall Farm	1	1.2.87	I. Mc.D.

Map Ref	Mite present	Locality	No. of trees	Date	Recorder
SE 5415	-	Norton—Ashburnham Close	1	.12.86	I. Mc.D.
SE 545154	-	" Nr. Manor Farm, Priory Rd.	1	2.87	"
*SE 5411	M	Owston Park—garden Nr. Church	1	7.87	C.A.H.
SE 555105	-	Owston Lane..bet. East Farm and West Farm	6	2.87	I. Mc.D.
SE 516075	-	Pickburn	1	1.2.87	"
SE 539051	-	Scawsby Hall	1	1.2.87	"
SE 530104	-	Skellow	1	.12.86	"
*SE 5603	M	Sprotborough—162, Sprotbo' Rd.	1	1984	C.A.H.
SE 556027	-	" Old Quarry nr. Newton	1	1985	I. Mc.D.
SE 554020	-	" On Railway	1	"	"
SE 638117	-	Stainforth	1	.2.86	"
SK 550940	-	Stainton..Holme Hall Farm	1	1.3.87	"
SK 553937	-	" Rose Dale H. Hall Lane	1	"	"
SE 574066	-	Stockbridge Farm	1	5.3.87	"
SE "	-	" Cottage	1	"	"
SK 559895	-	Stone	1	1.3.87	"
* —	-	Sykehouse, Tydworth Hague H'se	1	-	B.M.
SE 655175	-	" Pincheon Green	1	5.2.87	I. Mc.D.
SE 6812	-	Thorne..Park Cresc. Lockermarsh	1	"	"
SE 602111	-	Thorpe in Balne Wilsic Ferry H'se	1	12.86	"
*SK 5992	M	Tickhill...Lindrick Lane	6	7.86	C.A.H.
*SK 5993	-	" Dadesley Rd.	1	.86	L. Mc.D
-	-	" Sunderland St. Tickhill Hse	1	.86	P.M.
-	-	" Lancaster Cresc. Area	1	.86	"
SK 584928	-	" Friary Farm	1	7.2.87	M.W.I. Mc.D.
SK 585927	-	" The Priory	8	"	"
SK 588929	-	" opp. Travellers Rest P.H.	1	"	"
SK 590928	-	" Lindrick Lane	3	"	"
SK 589928	-	" Caldicot, Lindrick Lane	5	"	"
SK 589927	-	" Greystones Close, Lindrick	1	"	"
SK 590939	-	" Dadesley Rd.	9	"	"
SK 594943	-	" Eastfield Farm	1	"	"
SK 579927	-	" Limestone Hill	2	"	"
SK 601932	-	" 137, Sunderland St.	1	1.3.87	I. Mc.D.
SK 587909	-	" South Wongs Farm	5	"	"
SK 5993	-	" Dadesley Rd. (Extra to above 2	1	"	M.W.
SK 5892	-	" Priory Grounds	1	1.87	O.W.
SE 601118	-	Trumfleet	1	5.2.87	I. Mc.D.

Map Ref.	Mite present	Locality	No. of Trees	Date	Recorder
*SK 5698	-	Wadworth ....	1	6.10.81	D.G.D.
SK 569972	-	" Village Centre	1	7. 2.87	I.MC.D.
SK 575970	-	" Manor H'se..Carr Lane	1	"	"
SK 575971	-	" Field opp. Manor House	2	7.2.87	"
SK 5796	-	" Long Farm, Carr Lane	1	"	"
SK 573969	-	" Small Paddock, "	4	"	"
SK 564985	-	" Stump Cross	1	"	"
SE 549163	-	Walden Stubbs ..Wentbank House	4	12.86	"
SE 544166	-	" Old House Farm	1	2.87	"
SE 546006	-	Warmsworth H'se, Quaker Lane, W'worth	1	"	"
SE 547006	-	" Friends Meeting House Qu. Lane.	1	8.3.87	"
SK 568959	-	Wilsic ..Nr. Holme Farm	1	7.2.87	"
SE 640128	-	Woodhouse Green	1	"	"
*SE 5319	-	Womersley..Main Street	5	30.11.86	C.A.H.
*SE 5319	-	" " nr. Craft Centre	2	"	"
SE 6201	-	Cantley Park	15+	21.4.87	I.MC.D.
SE 5504	-	Cusworth..19, Roehampton Rise	1	"	H.B.
SE 5406	-	Scawthorpe, Hall Gr'nds 43, Sycamores	1	"	"
SE 531104	-	Skellow, Grounds of Old Hall	1	5.87	D.G.A.
SE 5007	-	Brodsworth Park	Seve-	"	"
SE 5905	-	Wheatley..Grounds of Old Hall	1	"	"
SK 605903	-	Styrrup	1	10.7.87	I.MC.D.

Notes M indicates the Walnut Mite, Aceria erinea which lives on but does not affect the crop.

\* denotes...Doncaster Museum Biological Data Bank Record.

#### Walnut Trees Removed

Dec.1986	Armthorpe-Woodleigh House (House and Garden also gone)	1 tree	M.M.
8.3.87	Loversall Park	Many trees cut down	D.S.
7.2.87	Tickhill, Lindrick Lane.	several cut down for housing	M.W.
1.87	" Sunderland Street	" near Cricket F'ld	J.H.
7.2.87	Wadworth ... Carr Lane....	Cut down for Motorway building	Local inhabitant

#### Footnote

It was pleasing to hear from Mr. M. Cooper, who recently lectured to the Doncaster Naturalists, that he and his team had undertaken planting of Black Walnuts on the Town Fields.

Some authors say that the walnut only bears fruit in the south of Britain. While on holiday in Scotland in June 1987 after completion of this article I saw a large walnut tree in the grounds of Dr. Grays Hospital in Elgin. The spread of branches I paced out at 19 yards. The tree was in flower and also setting fruit. Underneath it were several walnut shells from a previous year. I also remember a tree bearing fruit in Cooper Park, Elgin. So you shall not generalise about what happens in Nature, as it often proves you wrong.

#### Nature Note

The walnut trees at Caldicot and Greystones Close, Lindrick Lane Tickhill have a resident population of Grey Squirrels in them.

#### RECORDERS

E.B.	E. Braim
W.B.	William Bunting
H.D.	Harry Day
C.J.D.	Chris Devlin
M.J.D.	Malcolm Dolby
D.N.S.	Doncaster Naturalists Society
D.G.A.	Dave Green, Armthorpe
D.G.D.	Dave Green, Doncaster museum
J.H.	Jim Higgins
C.A.H.	Colin Howes
H.B.	Mrs Hunter, Brodsworth
J.L.	
J.M.	Janet Machinson
M.McD	Marjorie McDonald
I.M.	Ian McDonald
P.M.	P. Mottram
B.M.	Bob Munby
J.S.	Jim Saunders
P.S.	Pete Skidmore
D.S.	Dennis Slatcher
E.T.	Eric Toyne
M.W.	Maurice Whitta
G.W.	George Willoughby

### Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following people for their help during the survey:-

Pip Seccombe for a guided tour of Owston Arboretum  
Maurice Whittle for his guided tour of Tickhill  
All other recorders for their records of Walnut trees  
Doncaster Museum Biological Data Bank for the extraction of their records  
The Society of Friends for access to the chair mentioned in the text.

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Any survey of this kind is bound to be under-recorded due to the size of the area involved. I would like therefore to ask anyone who knows of additional walnut trees to inform Doncaster Museum so that the records can be updated.

## FROM COMMON TO GARDEN

### Trice Bingham

A garden is surrounded by water, hedges and fences, but it remains part of its environment. With sky for its "roof" and soil for its "floor", there is free passage for any living thing which can blow on the wind, fly, crawl or burrow through the earth. Climate is not excluded either or we would not use greenhouses!

For many years we have enjoyed planning and making our piece of land into a garden, but we have taken pleasure too in the comings and goings of many natural species. It is convenient, therefore, that super-tidiness has never been either a passion of ours or a possibility. I am writing the following notes to share with those who, like us, are naturalists and conservationists of a general sort and who like to notice what goes on because of or perhaps in spite of their gardening endeavours.

Our particular plot was scrubland when we bought almost an acre for a "song" in 1947. It seems that building began on the Jarratt Estate in Bessacarr around the turn of the century. It continued gradually without overall plan, apart from the basic roads, until well after the Second World War. By sub-dividing the bigger gardens building is still going on to this day. An available map of 1854 shows that the area consisted of farmland and woodland, but I have not been able to discover how long it lay fallow before the building of houses began.

The only mark of previous cultivation on our plot was the closely grassed lane which ran down one side between tall hawthorns which had formed a hedge. We have kept this "lane" as a basic feature of the garden, and have never needed to do more than mow it. The rest of the area was overgrown

with bracken, brambles and various types of grass, including couch. Oaks and untidy hawthorns grew at random, and close to what was to become our front door there was a sizeable gorse thicket beside which stood and still stands a misshapen oak which with imagination could be called "Robur tortuosa . . ."

The environment of our area has altered since the war, woods and fields being further from our "doorstep". The human population and that of domestic pets has grown. Our roads are all "made up" and heavy with traffic causing noise and fumes. Clean Air Laws have removed the results of carbon fuel and our pavings and rockeries now have abundant growth of silver lichen and lush moss. Our soil is very sandy, but over the years we have re-cycled all our kitchen and garden waste, made use of the indigenous leaf mould and imported from time to time a load of clay soil. We have also acquired as opportunity arose, peat and horse or pig manure. For a good many years we kept bantams and ducks, and their contribution helped.

In the beginning we were overrun not only by couch grass, bracken and rabbits but also, enjoyably, by numerous children, cats and dogs. Therefore we needed an open space for bikes, games etc. The lawn was made by clearing the indigenous flora from the central area, potatoes planted for one season, and after that grass was sown. We made a terrace, paved paths, a rockery and flower beds. Next we cut down some of the scrub oaks but kept those with a good central trunk. Among the trees we imported at that time were five Scots and Corsican Pines and two larches brought from Derbyshire; these are now over forty feet high.

Our first pond was made with concrete and had paving stones round, and before long we added a second pond, linked to the first by a shallow, concrete-edged stream. We have waterfalls to both ponds, but alas the pond life only has moving water when the electric pump is working. It is a delightful fact that a pond will develop its own ecology, given a chance and a little pondweed to get it going. We have enjoyed most of the usual pond creatures including, occasionally, newts and dragonflies. Only snails have been a failure,

and the occasional large water beetle (*Dytiscus marginalis*) has been unwelcome. We introduced goldfish and twice we made mistakes. No ecologist should be plain ignorant as we were! Once a small boy gave us a perch which he caught alive; this fish thrived in our pond at the expense of the goldfish which rapidly diminished in number. We had practically to empty the pond before we could catch this elusive predator.

In similar ignorance we accepted a trout from another friend, but the water was too stagnant and it did not survive. To begin with the ponds had to be covered with protective wire but once the children were old enough to fall in the water without drowning these were removed.

In our more recently added bit of "wild wood" we have made a third pond with a plastic base and sloping sides which are safer for hedgehogs and small children and seem to be favoured by mating frogs. Here imported gudgeon, tench, roach and rudd lurk in the murky depths (about 18")! Coy carp, goldfish and orfe swim colourfully above them. Around the pond margins we encourage Himalayan Balsam, Butterbur, Comfrey and Mimulus. A plant of Hart's Tongue Fern from a friend's garden in Pembrokeshire, Bóg Bean from North Wales (30 years ago), Yellow Iris, Marsh Marigold and other damp-loving plants have all done well.



In the past our ponds spelt occasional disaster for hedgehogs, but our female tortoise was a survivor. She has strolled into the garden uninvited, stayed and survived several winters in the garden shed. One summer's day, she went missing, until one of the family spotted a floating object in the middle of the "fountain pond", and then a taut neck was observed holding a head above water with difficulty. It was our tortoise! We never knew how long she had floated there, but she was fished out unharmed, the cavities in her shell having given her buoyancy.

We created an orchard which was the home of our bantams and ducks. The bantams laid well for us, but insisted on leading the "natural life" by nesting in secret places. One proudly arrived with fourteen golf-ball sized babies, hatched in which hawthorn thicket or rubbish dump we never discovered.

The ducks we kept were Aylesburys, a Khaki Campbell and later Mucovies, the latter brought home in the car from Ackworth School. The Aylesbury was a family pet for years, and very tame. He was also a keen family bird and produced with his wives a number of handsome progeny. A second generation Muscovy duck took wing and was rescued by an animal-loving lorry driver from the Bawtry Road. It ended up on a pond at Cusworth, more spacious than Whin Hill Road! We had fancied a pair of Mallard in the first place but at that time, not knowing the wild from the domestic breeds, we went to the market in Doncaster. The tough face of the market dealer was a "study" when we asked for a pair of ducks with green heads. At the present day the orchard houses, very suitably, our five beehives.

So gradually our piece of scrubland changed into an established garden. Fifteen years ago a small neglected area became available so we added this to the rest. It is now our "wild woodland" garden. Lombardy Poplars grow along one side, and there are a few Hawthorns and Oaks, also a tall Ash. Besides these a wild Cherry, Hazel and Elder came to light and a healthy "pussy willow". Considering it altogether I wonder as I write what changes we have made to our wild life, and how has it related to the domestic and cultivated species in the garden?

Firstly, I considered the changes in the Flora. None of the original species seem to have disappeared, apart from the Scarlet Pimpernel. On-going war has to be waged against couch grass, nettles and bindweed (aptly named Devil's guts). More recently other gardener's enemies have arrived - Ground elder, goosegrass, gallant soldier, hairy bitter cress and yellow sorrel. All these are too vigorous for

our liking. Foxgloves, Bluebells and Rosebay Willowherb have always flourished, along with White Bryony. We have native Broom, Honeysuckle and a fifteen foot tall Rose bush. Horsetail grows in one corner of the front garden, and Mullein, Teasel, Milk Thistle, Evening Primrose and Hogweed are among the larger plants which delight us with their erratic appearances in all corners of our plot. Some recent appearances include Fumitory, Changing Forget-me-not, Spring Beauty, Mouse-ear Chickweed, Ivy-leaved Toadflax, Common Violet, Welsh Poppy, Yellow Forget-me-not (amsinckia) and Anchusa - a garden escape.

Giant white puff balls, Dryad's Saddle and Horse Mushrooms surprise us occasionally. On the other hand, Shaggy Parasol is plentiful in the wild garden.

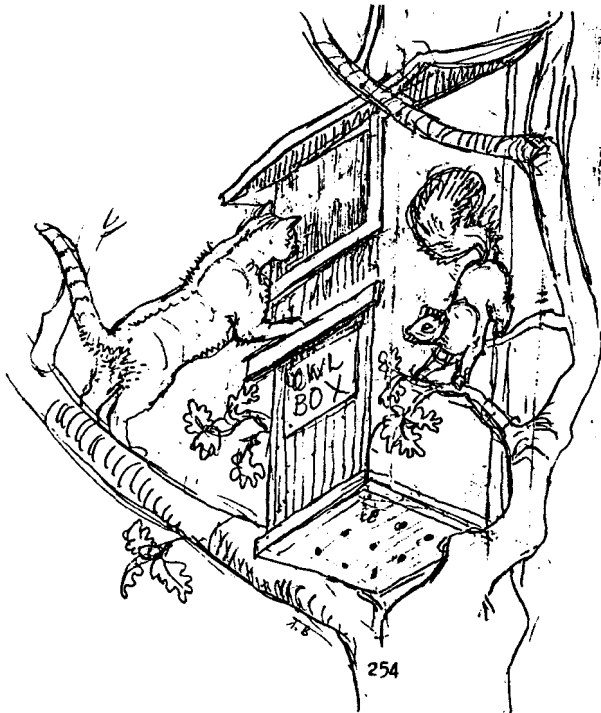
Secondly - Insects Although we have little knowledge in this field, we have tried to treat the insect population with respect. Spiders in the bath and erring bumble bees have always been gently ejected through windows and we have used pest-killers very sparingly. Sometimes we have declared war on ants in the kitchen, but we have greatly appreciated their programmed nuptial flight, when we have been able to watch them simultaneously emerge from their nests in various parts of our garden, take to the air and join the thousands from all over the neighbourhood. We encouraged the cinnabar moth by growing ragwort, but with no result, and we are still hoping the Red Admiral will return to the Buddleia.

Thirdly - Birds We built a bird table years ago, using a water-bleached pine-tree root brought from the shore of a Scottish loch. In placing it near our dining room window we unwittingly hid it from the open garden. Our neighbour whose table faces the main garden sees more of the less usual and timid birds. However, our table is popular enough in winter months among a wide variety of birds. A pair of spotted woodpeckers nested in our wood for the last two seasons, taking their young to feed at our neighbour's table.



Tawny Owls have never quite deserted the area - we see them occasionally and hear them often. We find their pellets but so far we have not managed to tempt them into our purpose-built boxes. Wood pigeons became scarce in the 1970's but are more numerous again now and with them we have the immigrant collared doves who build their precarious and wispy saucer-like nests. We have not seen a Jay for years, or a green woodpecker but this year magpies have arrived for the first time. Very occasionally, in a hard winter, Waxwings have stayed long enough to strip a hawthorn of its berries. We have a fruit cage and this sometimes traps greenfinches and blackcaps as well as the greedy black-birds which we are trying to keep out.

A Moorhen wandered in to inspect our ponds last year but she wasn't impressed for she did not stay! Years ago a wounded Yellow-hammer lived with us tame but unconfined and a baby cuckoo with a deformed beak also stayed around for a while, but did not like us much, preferring to depend for food on other birds who attended to its needs in their dozens, whilst it sat on a tree branch.



We tried to train our budgies to "home", inspired by the example of the Duke of Bedford and others,. However, the budgies overdid it and set up home in a rotten poplar tree trunk, breeding successfully there until owls or squirrels found them. Last summer, unhappily, a collared dove was killed by a beautiful female Sparrowhawk which swooped down on to it in the middle of our lawn, not far from our windows.

Fourthly -Mammals Rabbits still find corners for their burrows. Squirrels have sometimes set up house noisily in our roof-space, and they steal hazel nuts and almonds, not being satisfied with the plentiful acorns available. But squirrels are to be enjoyed too; I shall not forget watching two young ones chasing each other, kitten-like, around a tree trunk just above my head, whilst the mother chattered in great alarm, a few feet higher up! Of course there are the hedgehogs, voles, mice. Rats once did well beneath our garden shed. I am glad to report that bats still fly over and around of a summer evening. We do not know their present living place, but we have put up bat boxes in hopes. Moles have been rare.

To finish, here is a small verse which our grandson wrote when he was nine years old. It is good to know that, to a small boy, our garden seems a natural, as well as a pleasant sort of place!

"In Grandad's garden bees work away  
And flowers lay  
In a great green garden.  
A squirrel darts up a tree,  
And a lonely bee  
Flies round a pond.  
On the ground  
leaves lay around  
giving a bed to a hedgehog."



Doncaster Naturalists' Society Summer Programme 1988

Sat. May 7th. Sprotboro'...Pot Ridings Wood etc...D.M.Bramley  
Sat. May 21st. Highfields, Hanging Wood.....G.Mitchell  
Sat. May 28th. Y.N.U. Ebberstone, Netherby Dale

Sun. June 5th. Castle Hills..... I. Macdonald  
Wed. June 8th. Garden Visit.....23, Whin Hill Rd. T.&E.Bingham  
7.30p.m.

Sat. June 11th. Y.N.U....Hatchell Wood

Sat. June 25th. Disused Railway, Newton, Sprotboro'.. M. Hanson

Sat. July 2nd. Y.N.U. Cawthorne

Wed. July 6th. Ridge Walk...Brodsforth to Red House.D.M.Bramley

Sat. July 16th. Hayburn Wyke nr. Scarborough'..... D.Allen

Sat. July 23rd. Y.N.U. Burton Constable

Sat. July 30th. Bentley and Arksey Commons..... D.M.Bramley

Sat. Aug. 20th. Y.N.U. Semerwater

Sat. Sept. 3rd. Fungus Foray.....Kings Wood, Bawtry..R.Taylor

Please Note:- Saturday Meetings...meet at the Museum, Chequer Rd.  
at 1.30p.m. except for the Hayburn Wyke meeting..  
this will start at 9.30a.m.  
Evening Meetings..start from the Museum at 6.30p.m.  
except for the garden visit..find your own way to  
Whin Hill Rd.  
Y.N.U. Meetings...if you are interested in attending  
any of these, contact D.Bramley for details ....

Tel:-535246

Doncaster Naturalists' Society

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