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EDITORIAL

This slim 'economy' number of *Nature in Cambridgeshire* completes a run of 27 issues started by CAMBIENT in 1958, two years after its formation, and includes an index to the last 14 issues and a list of errata in Nos. 23–26. The circumstances that led to the Trust's decision to stop publishing the journal are explained in the President's leading article. The opportunity has been taken to include, as usual, Mrs Gigi Crompton's notes on vascular plants and Mr John Clarke's weather records, to cover the last two years, and also records of mosses and liverworts, collated by Dr Harold Whitehouse, to update his part of *A Checklist of the Flora of Cambridgeshire* (1983). It is to be hoped that an alternative means of maintaining the publication of these and other records for the old county of Cambridgeshire can be found soon. I am grateful to these four people for their contributions and to Mrs Jean Salingar and Dr Mike Smith for their painstaking work on the index.

Philip Oswald
April 1985

ERRATA

No. 23 (1980)

P. 1: THE COUNCIL 1978–79 → THE COUNCIL 1979–80

P. 9: Dr M. W. Holgate → Dr M. W. Holdgate

P. 21: *Acer compestre* → *Acer campestre*

No. 24 (1981)

P. 33: *Verbascum virginatum* → *Verbascum virgatum*

P. 34: burnet-saxifraga → burnet-saxifrage

P. 36: *Cotoneater* → *Cotoneaster* (twice)

P. 37: (see p. 00) → (see pp. 31–33)

P. 45 (end of para. 4): *Insert* 10 November 1977, bullfinches were also eating the seed of wood dock *Rumex sanguineus.*

P. 50: toxonomically → taxonomically

P. 56 (first entry): Little, Shelford → Little Shelford
S. R. Paynes → S. R. Payne

P. 57 (first entry): perferring → preferring
BSBI News, → (*BSBI News*,
(sixth entry): Sensu F.E.5:273 → sensu *Flora Europaea*. **5**: 273
(eighth entry): (since 1966; → (since 1966);

No. 25 (1982)

P. 25 (Figure 2): Peat and Marl should be two separate items in the same box.

P. 45 (11 lines up): and its hybrids from → from its hybrids with

P. 51 (7 lines up): was only 37.5 mm. → was 103 mm.

P. 53 (Figure 5): Print-outs **A** and **B** should be reversed.

P. 61 (Figure 6): **A**, **B** and **C** are from the A604 pond, and **D**, **E** and **F** from "Highsett", as correctly indicated in the text (pp. 59–60).

No. 26 (1983)

P. 62: (Rowell, Walters and Harvey, 1981) → (Rowell, Walters and Harvey, 1982)

NATURE IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE: AU REVOIR, NOT FAREWELL?

S. M. Walters

Nature in Cambridgeshire first appeared in 1958, the Editorial in that first number commenting as follows: "It is remarkable that until now Cambridgeshire has had no Journal of Natural History. Of the varied fauna and flora of the County only the birds have so far been dignified with an Annual Report. The decision to remedy this state of affairs is due largely to the formation in 1956 of the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Naturalists' Trust, and it is appropriate that the first number should appear in the centenary year of the Cambridge Natural History Society."

This happy collaboration between CAMBIENT and the Natural History Society in recording in print the natural history of our County comes to an end in its present form with this, the twenty-seventh number. The complete run of the journal provides an interesting record, in particular of the growth of local concern for the conservation of nature and of the change from unselfconscious collecting and recording of the wild plants and animals of the County to planned co-operative action to protect and preserve them for posterity. This final number of the present series also provides an opportunity to survey the changes we have seen in Cambridgeshire, both in terms of the countryside itself and as reflected in the wide public support for conservation we now find.

From its inception, *Nature in Cambridgeshire* was a hybrid, happily showing characteristic hybrid vigour (the 1983 number being twice the size of the first one, with 72 pages), but with some instability in its genetic make-up. Those who planned it back in 1956 – a group in which the late William Palmer played a very important role – were always well aware of the compromise involved in an annual publication which carried 'official' CAMBIENT news (including the Annual Report) as well as a selection of natural history notes and short articles. In many other counties there is a well-established journal of a Natural History Society or Field Club, often with a long, stable history of continuous publication going back into the nineteenth century; but unfortunately this was not the case in Cambridgeshire, and the need for a 'traditional' natural history journal had long been felt by keen naturalists to whom, in the immediate post-war period, the urgency of action for nature conservation was not yet obvious.

There were two reasons why it was necessary in the early days of CAMBIENT to co-operate with the prestigious and mature Cambridge Natural History Society in the production of the journal (and indeed in other ways, such as the organisation of meetings). The first arose from the fact that the University City of Cambridge has always dominated the local natural history scene. There is, of course, nothing surprising in this fact: something like half the population of the old county of Cambridgeshire live in Cambridge, and any local voluntary body will inevitably draw a high proportion of its members from the City. The new organisation of naturalists and lovers of the countryside on a *county* basis was admittedly 'in competition with' the Natural History Society only in the Cambridge area; but this area was, and still is, the single most important recruiting ground for members of CAMBIENT, and accommodation with the old-established Society was clearly important. Of course, what has happened over twenty-five years has benefited both organisations: the majority of permanent members of the Natural History Society (as opposed to the large student membership) are also CAMBIENT members, because they recognise their dual concern as naturalists – to enjoy their hobby and to make sure that it is possible for their children to enjoy it in the future.

The second reason is peculiar to Cambridge – the influence of the University, and particularly the professional biologists, on the life and vigour of voluntary societies in which their expert knowledge is obviously valuable. This is a large subject, and I shall restrict myself to one or two comments. The first concerns the roles of amateur and professional in CAMBIENT and the CNHS. The rise of professional science, in Cambridge and elsewhere, is a nineteenth-century phenomenon. It is interesting to recall, for example, that John Stevens Henslow, teacher of Charles Darwin and fourth Professor of Botany (1825–1861), was able *only in the last year of his life* (1860/61) to examine Botany candidates for the newly-established Natural Sciences Tripos! It was Henslow – and more directly his pupil Babington, who succeeded him in the Chair of Botany – to whom we owe the early establishment of the Natural History Society. Canon Charles Raven explained the background in his Centenary article on the Society published in *The Cambridge Review* on 12 October 1957, from which I quote: "So our Society was founded – first [1857] as the Cambridge Entomological Society; then (in the eighties) as the Entomological Society and Field Naturalists' Club; and finally, after much debate, in 1892 as the Entomological and Natural History Society."

Lest any readers should think it odd that the first President of the 1857 Entomological Society, Babington, should be the Professor of *Botany*, perhaps I should remind them that both Henslow and Babington were keen, all-round naturalists who took the Chair of Botany because there was no choice. (The Chair of Zoology in Cambridge was not founded until 1869.) My own book, *The Shaping of Cambridge Botany* (1981), explains the background to this very real difference between the two biological sciences in the University.

It is, therefore, only since the birth of our Cambridge Natural History Society that the distinction between amateur and professional has arisen in science. In a very real sense, Victorian natural history was *all* amateur, and in Cambridge the University men who enjoyed the NHS (I am afraid that women did not come into it!), whatever their specialised qualifications and titles, were simply pursuing their hobbies just like any other member. This is, of course, why the Society is called the *Cambridge* Natural History Society and why it has always enjoyed the support of both City and University naturalists. Indeed, from the first days, its most illustrious members have represented very diverse professions – eminent churchmen and theologians, as one would expect, but also professional men in the City (Alfred Jones, who was host to the Society for many years in his rooms in 59 Trumpington Street, was a dentist) and others in more ordinary walks of life. To the University undergraduate recruited into the Society for his brief spell of three years in Cambridge, it may seem that the NHS is 'just another University society'; but this is very far from the case, and the 'hard core' of resident members (most of whom took out Life Membership in the days before severe inflation!) provide a body of support which is essential.

So much for the NHS and its structure. We should now turn to CAMBIENT and ask about its relations with the University. Some of these links are obvious: the most important one arises from the interest of my predecessor as Director of the

Botanic Garden, John Gilmour, who, when President of the Trust in 1958, confirmed the temporary home of CAMBIENT in the office of the Garden at 1 Brookside – an admirable arrangement which continues to the present day. But, more generally, CAMBIENT has benefited throughout its life from the specialist advice available to it and given freely by professional biologists, geologists and geographers interested in the Cambridge region. Some offer valuable, if unspectacular, service on the specialised committees of the Trust, in particular the Scientific Advisory Committee; others make their contribution in individual reserves, such as the Devil's Ditch and Hayley Wood; and the high standing of CAMBIENT in its dealings with the Nature Conservancy Council and other public bodies concerned with countryside issues in the County owes much to the technical excellence of such work. In this respect, CAMBIENT is in an unusually favourable position as a County Trust.

What, then, has forced CAMBIENT to cease the regular annual production of *Nature in Cambridgeshire*? As is so often the case, money is at the root of the decision. In spite of a very successful appeal in 1980/81, which surpassed its gross target figure of £100,000, the Trust, in common with many other voluntary bodies, finds that ever-rising costs and static or even only slowly-rising membership are combining to produce a financial crisis. One element in this crisis is the cost of services to members. The Trust is *not* a Natural History Society which exists to provide collective facilities for its members; it is, and must always remain, a charitable body with legal powers to own land and charged with the most important task of safeguarding sites throughout 'old' Cambridgeshire from destruction. Its operations must always give priority to this fundamental aim – though it is, of course, right and proper that members should receive regular and properly-presented reports in modern, attractive form, telling them how the Trust is performing.

The cost of printing *Nature in Cambridgeshire* for free distribution to all CAMBIENT members has been running at over £1,000 in recent years. It is true that this figure, converted to a percentage of the ordinary membership subscription, is of the order of 6% only – whereas, for comparison, the £25 which the first number of the journal cost represented some 30% of the members' subscriptions at the time. But what we have to remember is that CAMBIENT has recently been sending out to its members, in addition to the RSNC/Trusts journal *Natural World*, a duplicated newsletter two or three times a year. The last number (56) contained ten full A4 pages of news of the Trust's activities, problems and successes – and it is increasingly evident that current news, attractively presented, is what most members value.

The CAMBIENT Executive Committee, presented with a 'crisis' budget in 1982 which required urgent savings of a minimum of £2,000, inevitably faced the question: Why not 'suspend' *Nature in Cambridgeshire* after the planned 1983 number? In the event, this question prompted a further one: Could we not with advantage radically replan our total information to members *if* we take this drastic step? The 'new look' *CAMBIENT News*, which all members will have received by the time they read this, is the product of this reappraisal. It aims to carry all the official members' information, together with up-to-date local conservation news and views to complement the excellent service provided by *Natural World*. What it cannot carry is original articles on aspects of Cambridgeshire natural history – and a successor to *Nature in Cambridgeshire* is needed for this purpose. The Natural History Society has appointed a small committee to consider possible solutions, and we can only wish them a happy outcome from their deliberations.

What impressions do we gather from rereading in sequence the series of numbers of *Nature in Cambridgeshire*? I can only record my own reactions. The first one is surprise that so much in which I have been involved has faded in my memory – the early days of the Conservation Corps (now the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers), for whom CAMBIENT provided valuable support in the infancy of the movement; the details of the acquisition, through our first public appeal, of the nature reserve of Hayley Wood which 'came of age' in 1983; the beginnings of the very successful long-term co-operation with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds over the internationally important Ouse Washes nature reserve; and many other matters. Inevitably surprise gives way to a certain satisfaction over what has been achieved with such limited resources.

Another, quite different reaction concerns the 'professionalisation' of nature conservation. When we began the Trust in 1956, we were all amateurs and, indeed, beginners. No one had any fixed ideas to to how we should proceed, and the general atmosphere was one of hectic spontaneity. We employed no paid staff, and the CAMBIENT office, at the top of the attic stairs in 1 Brookside, was relatively inaccessible and soon wholly inadequate for the rapidly-growing business. Part-time paid secretarial help began in 1965, and by 1968 we had recruited Joyce Morley, our indispensable office secretary who is happily still with us, and Robert Payne, having taken early retirement from the Forestry Commission, became our first (part-time) paid administrator. We still greatly benefit from Robert's active support and help in many ways.

Neither Joyce nor Robert, I think it is true to say, have ever thought of themselves as 'professionals' – though all CAMBIENT members who know them will need no convincing of their considerable expertise in Trust affairs. The real change, to young professional staff with training and experience in practical problems of nature conservation and nature reserve management, has come much more recently in the Trust movement. In our own case it began with the appointment in 1976 of Joy Greenall, who has just moved on to a new post as FWAG Officer in Oxford. Keith McNaught, appointed in 1978, is our Conservation Officer, responsible for all the varied technical activities. We now have a structure which employs professionals for the main business, but the Trust is still critically dependent on the enthusiastic service of many volunteers. The right balance between professional and amateur is essential for the healthy functioning of CAMBIENT. In a very real sense, nature conservation has 'come of age': it has acquired its own special areas of expert knowledge, and much of CAMBIENT's less publicised work is carried on at a level of site meetings and committees requiring servicing with minutes, memoranda and reports. Part of the challenge facing the voluntary conservation movement is how to keep this essential 'bureaucratic' activity in living contact with the membership which is serves. We certainly do not have all the answers here, and CAMBIENT must remain experimental and, when necessary, innovative in its approach.

Nowhere is an open mind more necessary than in assessing the very rapid changes which are taking place in agriculture and land-use policies, in part brought about by the pressure of the 'conservation lobby'. When *Nature in Cambridgeshire* first appeared, it seemed like 'a voice crying in the wilderness' and heard by only a very small minority. Now 'ecology', 'conservation' and 'the environment' are words in common use, and lip-service is paid everywhere to ideas which we were firmly propagating more than a quarter of a century ago. The challenge is obvious: have we the resources to cope with all these new opportunities? What should the publications of the seventies offer to this new widespread 'converted' public? And, the most important question of all, how do we turn this genuine concern into real resources for CAMBIENT and the conservation movement in general?

VASCULAR PLANT RECORDS

G. Crompton

Since the publication of *A Checklist of the Flora of Cambridgeshire* in May 1983, nearly 120 copies have been sold. Most of the sales have been through the good offices of CAMBIENT, the BSBI and Margaret Perring, and the authors-cum-publishers would like to thank all concerned!

A check by Graham Easy for 'missed' records has produced most of the 86 species of aliens that have been added to the list. Robert Payne has very usefully added over 400 new 10 km square records, mostly from areas near the borders of the vice-county. Alan Leslie has paid some fruitful visits to Cambridgeshire, including one to some floriferous fenland churchyards in February 1984.

Petroselinum segetum (L.) Koch (corn parsley) was described as "A rather rare species of hedgerows and grassy places" in the 1964 Flora. It is now rare or absent in all our neighbouring counties and since 1964 had appeared in Cambridgeshire only as a casual half a dozen times until 1980, when James Cadbury rediscovered Tutin's 1945 site on a SE-facing bank at Earith Lock. Here it was locally frequent. During 1983 and 1984 Robert Payne has carried out what must be the most extensive survey of one species ever undertaken in the vice-county. After walking all the river and wash banks of the River Ouse between the vice-county boundaries at Fen Drayton and Welney, the Old West River from Earith to its confluence with the Cam, and the Rivers Ouse and Cam from Swaffham Prior to Littleport, he has now recorded *P. segetum* over 33 miles of banks (grazed and ungrazed), sometimes in great abundance. This is surely our most overlooked species!

Orobanche hederae Duby (ivy broomrape) continues to flourish in the University Botanic Garden (see *N. in C.*, No. 25 (1982): 63, and No. 26 (1983): 66–68) and has now been reported by Erica Swale from Girton College (where it was last recorded in 1940). A good colony has been found by Janet Welsh in 1984 in a churchyard at Weston, in Herts, and these records suggest it could occur elsewhere in our vice-county.

I should like to remind recorders that, though we are not at present able to publish their records in a permanent form, these and news of their discoveries are as eagerly awaited as before the demise of *Nature in Cambridgeshire*. All new and second vice-county records are sent to *Watsonia*, but it is hoped that, when a successor to our journal is published, it will contain a bumper list of *Vascular Plant Records*.

Ranunculus sardous Crantz Roadside verge by Lode bank, Blue Bell Bridge, Thorney, 53/276083, R. Payne, 18.6.1984. This is the first record in the vice-county since 1983, and the first from the fens in the north of Cambridgeshire.

Cochlearia danica L. Along verges and central reservation of A45(T) from Kennett to Swaffham Bulbeck, E. M. Hyde (in herb. E.M.H.), 8 and 26.4.1984. A604 in Dry Drayton and Bar Hill area, G. M. S. Easy (in herb. G.M.S.E.), 1.5.84. It continues along the A45 to Bury and Ipswich. These four new 10 km records (52/36, 52/46, 52/56, 52/66) follow only two previous records since 1946. Before that there was only an unconfirmed record of 1796 from saltmarshes below Wisbech.

Cerastium arvense L. x *C. tomentosum* L. agg. Roadside bank, with both parents, Chippenham, 52/663714, A. C. Leslie, 5.1979 and 19.3.1983 (in CGE *ex cult.* Guildford, 1983), NCR. *C. tomentosum* is quite a frequent garden throw-out, and its hybrid with *C. arvense* may be overlooked.

Sagina maritima G. Don fil. Strand-line at base of bank, Foul Anchor, 53/466177, A. C. Leslie (in CGE), 25.6.1983. Thought to be extinct; this is the first specimen collected since 1853.

Erodium moschatum (L.) L'Hèr. Two plants on waste ground at Hauxton, 52/432522, A. C. Leslie (in herb. A.C.L.), 15.7.1983; this is only the second record since 1909.

Lythrum hyssopifolia L. Teversham Moor, 52/55, R. Relhan (1785), *Flora Cantab.*, p. 183. Border of Grunty Fen, 52/47, in CGE (no collector's name) 7.1833. Stretham, 52/57, H. Baker (in E), 9.1837. These three early records, omitted from the 1964 Flora and 1983 Checklist, have been comm. by C. D. Preston.

Lythrum junceum Banks & Solander (*L. graefferi* Ten.) Roswell Pits, Ely, 52/58, W. J. Cross (in E), 1898, as *L. hyssopifolia*; det. C. D. Preston, 1983, NCR. Ornithological Field Station, Madingley, 52/36, E. M. Barraud, 9.7.1957, det. S. M. Walters as *L. graefferi* (recorded in the former's annotated copy of A. H. Evans's (1939) Flora), 2nd CR.

Torilis arvensis (Hudson) Link Steep, sandy bank of New South Eau, near Thorney, 53/265081, *ca* 30 large patches, G. Crompton & R. Payne (in CGE), 6.7.1984. Described once as common in the cornfields about Wisbech by Skrimshire; this is the first record from the northernmost fens.

Euphorbia platyphyllos L. Fields at Little Hill, Coveney, 52/490805, Tetrad Flora Excursion, 4.9.1982; the first record from the fens.

Polygonum mite Schrank Locally abundant, with *Lythrum hyssopifolia*, in abandoned arable edge of field "near Thriplow" (Whittlesford), 52/447485, D. E. Coombe & S. M. Walters (in CGE), 28.10.1958. This record was published in *Proc. BSBI*, 3: 286 (1959), but some doubt was cast on its identification, and it was omitted from both the 1964 Flora and the 1983 Checklist. John Akeroyd has recently examined the specimen and decided that it was *P. mite*, as originally named.

Salix purpurea L. x *viminalis* L. (*S.* x *rubra* Hudson) One bush on bank of the Ouse at Littleport, 52/576875, A. C. Leslie (in herb. A.C.L.), 2.6.1984, det. R. D. Meikle; the first confirmed record in the vice-county.

Salix caprea L. x *cinerea* subsp. *oleifolia* Macreight (*S.* x *reichardtii* A. Kerner) Devil's Ditch, in scrub near A11, 52/627607, A. C. Leslie, 21.9.1983, conf. R. D. Meikle; the first confirmed record since 1956; probably under-recorded.

Primula elatior (L.) Hill x *veris* L. (*P.* x *media* Petermann) Hayley Wood Triangle, with both parents, 52/29-53-, W. H. Palmer (in CGE), 4.1980. This is the first confirmed record, but the plant is referred to in O. Rackham's (1975) book, *Hayley Wood*, pp. 159 and 193 ("WHP 69!").

Symphytum asperum Lepechin Naturalised on roadside verge and along ride, Whittlesford, 52/465478, G. M. S. Easy, 6.7.1972, NCR (A. C. Leslie in CGE, 25.5.1983). Buds reddish-pink, flowers bright blue, with lower parts washed white, 18–19 mm long.

Stachys palustris L. x *sylvatica* L. (*S.* x *ambigua* Sm.) Cornfield margin near stream, Chippenham, 52/665703, A. C. Leslie (in CGE), 19.8.1984; only the 2nd record since 1938 of this hybrid.

Galeopsis bifida Boenn. Drove margin on Wardy Hill, 52/469825, A. C. Leslie, 14.8.1983, 4th CR; *G. tetrahit* L. was also present.

Galium mollugo subsp. *erectum* Syme Devil's Ditch, not infrequent between A11 and Dullingham Road, 52/66, G. Crompton & A. C. Leslie (in herb. A.C.L.), 21.9.1983. Although the 1964 Flora suggested this subspecies was probably common, this is only the second record since 1957.

Conyza canadensis (L.) Cronq. x *Erigron acer* L. On cinder track of old railway near Reach, 52/574651, Joyce Harris, 8.1983, 2nd CR (G. Crompton in CGE, 25.8.1983, conf. A. C. Leslie). Although both parents are abundant, only four hybrid plants were found.

Cirsium dissectum (L.) Hill Sawston Moor, 52/491489, S. M. Walters, 29.7.1983. One of the three remaining sites for this species, which was last recorded in Sawston by Shrubbs in 1898.

Arum italicum Miller subsp. *neglectum* (Townsend) Prime Roadside verge, Shelford, 52/463530, Nicholas G. Hodgetts, 5.5.1984, NCR (G. Crompton in CGE, 22.5.1984). A striking plant with very large leaves with whitish veins; there were seven large clumps and it may have been established for some years.

Lemna minuscula Herter Abundant in channel through a small wood, Commissioner's Pit, Upware, 52/539708, C. J. Cadbury, 20.5.1984, conf. A. C. Leslie, 3rd CR. Floating in an old water-cress bed, Fowlmere, 52/408453 (Point 3 of Nature Trail), C. D. Preston, 12.8.1984, conf. and in herb. A. C. Leslie, 4th CR.

Typha angustifolia L. x *latifolia* L. (*T.* x *glauca* Godron) Three patches along the Ouse near Littleport, 52/579879, A. C. Leslie (in CGE), 2.6.1984, NCR.

Lolium multiflorum Lam. x *perenne* L. (*L.* x *hybridum* Hausskn.) Top of dyke bank near River Nene, 53/467165 (v.c. 29, in Norfolk), A. C. Leslie, 19.11.1983, 3rd CR.

Apera spica-venti (L.) Beauv. Seen twice on a Tetrad Flora Excursion to the Whittlesey area, on sandy soil on a roadside verge, 52/257937, and in a corn crop, 52/253936, C. Turner, M. E. Smith *et al.*, 16.7.1983. The first record from the fens for this typically Breckland species.

BRYOPHYTE RECORDS

H. L. K. Whitehouse

Several interesting bryophyte finds have been made in Cambridgeshire (v.c. 29) since the Checklist went to press, and information about some earlier finds was received too late for inclusion. Details are as follows.

MUSCI (Mosses)

Amblystegium varium (Hedw.) Lindb. In *Phragmites* swamp by Fordham Abbey, 52/632700, R. A. Finch, 1969.

Brachythecium glareosum (Spruce) B., S. & G. In thin turf on chalk track by old coprolite pits at Plant Breeding Institute, Trumpington, 52/433534, R. A. Finch, 1975.

Campylopus introflexus (Hedw.) Brid. On decayed stump in woodland, Sawston Hall, 52/492488, N. Hodgetts, 1984.

Grimmia trichophylla Grev. On horizontal concrete surface near ground level, north side of Sawston Hall, 52/488491, I. M. Turner, 1984.

Tortula papillosa Wils. On tombstone, Grantchester churchyard, 52/433554, C. D. Preston, 1984.

Trichostomopsis umbrosa (C. Muell.) Robins. On steep bank beside chalk spring, Nine Wells, Great Shelford, 52/462524, H. L. K. Whitehouse, 1984.

Ulota crispa (Hedw.) Brid. var. *norvegica* (Groenvall) Smith & Hill On a willow branch near ground level in the wooded area west of the brickpits at Wicken Fen, 52/560707, C. D. Preston, 1984. This is the first record of the variety for the vice-county and the first record of the species for over a century, the last find being in Hardwick Wood. It has been found recently, however, on willows by the flooded gravel pit at Red Lodge, Suffolk, close to the county boundary. Dr M. O. Hill has examined the Hardwick Wood plant, which was collected by D. G. Haviland and J. J. Lister in 1881, and found it to be intermediate between var. *crispa* and var. *norvegica*. The species appears to be sensitive to atmospheric pollution, so its reappearance in the vice-county is an encouraging sign.

HEPATICAE (Liverworts)

Lophozia perssonii Buch & S. Arn. Refound in the wettest part of the active chalk-pit at Cherry Hinton, 52/485559, Miss A. E. Newton & C. D. Preston, 1983.

Metzgeria fruticulosa (Dicks.) Evans On elder trunk by east side of River Snail in wood by Fordham Abbey, 52/633697, R. A. Finch, 1969.

WEATHER NOTES FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE 1983

J. W. Clarke

January: A mild and open month with very little frost and much drier than the autumn months of 1982.

February: Much colder than January. Frosty, with snow lying on several days in the middle of the month. Milder and more open in the last week.

March: Fine and dry until the middle of the month; then wet and cold. Thunder on one day.

April: A very wet and cool month, temperatures only picking up in the last week. All natural phenomena very late. Thunder on two days.

May: An extremely wet month. Cooler than average, but also very thundery. The wettest May on record. Thunder on 11 days.

June: A dry month, completely without rain in the middle of the month, but cool and rather dull. Thunder on three days.

July: Very warm and sometimes hot. Dry apart from three thunderstorms. Rainfall about average.

August: Sunny and warm, but the heat tempered on many days by cumulus cloud carried in from the North Sea by persistent north-east winds, which blew almost continuously throughout the month. Rainfall below average. Thunder on three days.

September: Sunny and warm for first three days; then becoming changeable with high winds and very cool. After 21st, drier, but very dull and misty at times in the last week. Thunder on two days.

October: First half of the month changeable, but rainfall not excessive; second half settled and dry.

November: Mainly quiet, settled and dry, with a few sharp frosts.

December: Very mild and open, especially the second half of the month.

Weather records at Swaffham Prior 1983

Temperature °F

Month	*Mean max.*	*Mean min.*	*Highest*	*Lowest*	*Rainfall (ins.)*
January	48	37	59 on 27th	25 on 20th	1.28
February	38	30	50 on 2nd	20 on 4th	1.80
March	49	38	57 on 13th	30 on 28th	1.04
April	53	38	64 on 26th	26 on 3rd	3.22
May	60	44	71 on 31st	35 on 4th	4.08
June	69	51	79 on 8th	42 on 16th	0.77
July	79	59	89 on 15th and 16th	46 on 1st	2.12
August	74	56	84 on 15th	43 on 30th	0.97
September	62	50	77 on 1st	42 on 12th	2.15
October	58	44	75 on 4th	30 on 29th	1.30
November	49	40	60 on 1st and 9th	23 on 22nd	1.78
December	45	36	54 on 8th	23 on 11th	1.34
Annual means	57.0°	43.6°		Total	21.85

Number of days over 80°F	23
Number of days over 70°F	70
Number of days with a maximum under 32°F	None
Number of days with a minimum under 32°F	52
Last air frost of the spring	20th April
First air frost of the autumn	21st October
Days with snow lying	5
Days with thunder	25

WEATHER NOTES FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE 1984

J. W. Clarke

January: A mainly mild, open month, with a few frosty days about the middle of the month accompanied by a fall of snow but no prolonged severe spell. Rainfall well above average, with 18 rain days. Sunshine almost a record for the month. Snow lying on three days.

February: Mild, wet and windy until 10th; then frosty and bright, giving way to dull, drizzly and overcast weather in the last week with continuous drizzle from 24th to 28th. Rain fell on 11 days.

March: A very dull, overcast month, with little real rain until the last week but many days with slight drizzle. Temperatures about average. 13 rain days.

April: Cold and unsettled in the first half of the month. Fine and settled with much sunshine in the second half; warm by day but cold with frequent frosts at night. A much drier month, with seven rain days.

May: Dry until 20th, with some sunny days but mainly dull and overcast (North Sea cumulus cloud) with a north-east wind. Unsettled and cool with some heavy rain to the end of the month. 70°F was not reached on any day. Natural phenomena very late. Rainfall much above normal, falling on eight days.

June: Cloudy and cool, with north or north-east winds bringing in North Sea cumulus cloud until 12th. Sunny and warm until 21st; then unsettled and cool to the end of the month. Seven rain days, with thunder on three days.

July: A dry month, with a few days of hot weather at the end and also from 5th to 9th, but many cool and cloudy days due to North Sea cumulus cloud. A persistent anticyclone centred to the west of Scotland gave much of Britain an extremely hot and sunny month, but in Cambridgeshire it spoilt the weather with a continuous north-east drag round the edge of the anticyclone. Much of northern and central Europe had poor weather also. Five rain days, with thunder on one day.

August: A very warm month, especially in the second half. Frequent rain in the first two weeks, but dry in the last fortnight. The persistent north to north-east winds finally died out in the middle of the month, allowing the weather to improve in Cambridgeshire. 80°F was exceeded on five days, but on 7th the maximum was only 59°F. Seven rain days, with thunder on two days.

September: An extremely wet month, with 4.06 ins of rain in 16 days. First three days very warm and close. Very changeable thereafter, and also very cool at times. Gale-force winds on 9th and 10th. An unusually unsettled September, but very similar to 1983, though wetter. Five days with thunder.

October: Another changeable month, with many rain days and only one short fine spell in the middle of the month. Very mild: no air frost occurred and only one or two ground frosts. No fog at all. Thunderstorm on 5th. 66°F attained on 14th.

November: Changeable and wet throughout. Mild, with no air frost and a marked absence of foggy days. Mist persisted all day on 15th only. 15 rain days.

December: Changeable and mild. No severe weather and no air frost until 11th. 15 rain days.

Weather records at Swaffham Prior 1984

Temperature °F

Month	*Mean max.*	*Mean min.*	*Highest*	*Lowest*	*Rainfall (ins.)*
January	40	32	53 on 12th	24 on 19th	2.50
February	41	32	52 on 3rd	24 on 14th	1.42
March	46	35	53 on 23rd	31 on 31st	1.06
April	56	37	73 on 21st	26 on 3rd	0.60
May	57	42	66 on 31st	31 on 9th	2.95
June	67	50	79 on 20th	40 on 1st and 8th	2.62
July	72	56	85 on 28th	44 on 3rd	0.55
August	75	58	84 on 21st	47 on 12th	1.84
September	64	52	79 on 2nd	43 on 25th	4.06
October	59	47	67 on 8th	37 on 27th	1.72
November	51	42	64 on 1st and 2nd	33 on 17th	3.23
December	45	36	56 on 1st	27 on 27th and 28th	1.38
Annual means	56.1°	43.2°		Total	23.93

Number of days over 80°F	9
Number of days over 70°F	62
Number of days with a maximum under 32°F	1
Number of days with a minimum under 32°F	50
Last air frost of the spring	9th May
First air frost of the autumn	11th December
Days with snow lying	5

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An index to the first 13 issues of *Nature in Cambridgeshire* was published in No. 14. This index to the later numbers is more comprehensive but still omits entries for Annual Reports and most other 'administrative' items. Full titles are given for articles and papers (with authors' names in brackets): listing of these is alphabetical for the first word, excluding any definite or indefinite article. Key words and some subjects are also indexed; particular species that form the main topics of papers are listed under their scientific names in the case of plants and invertebrate animals and under their common English names in the case of birds and other vertebrates. Unqualified entries for sites relate chiefly to accounts of excursions, management committees' and wardens' reports and references to purchases, leases and nature reserve agreements.