



*Introduction
to
Kilpin*

Hall Farm Bungalow



Dairy Farm



Priory Farm



The Croft



Homestead



Thornleigh



Kilpin Grange



Hall Farm Cottages



Grange Cottage



*Rose Cottage
Lost In Blossom*



Kilpin Hall



*Road Towards
Howden
AD1990*



Road to Balkholme

Same Road in Winter



Bridle Path to Skelton



Howden · Minster



Bishop's Manor House

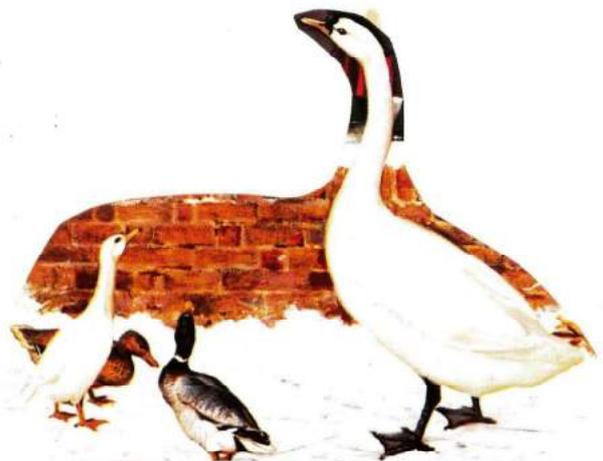


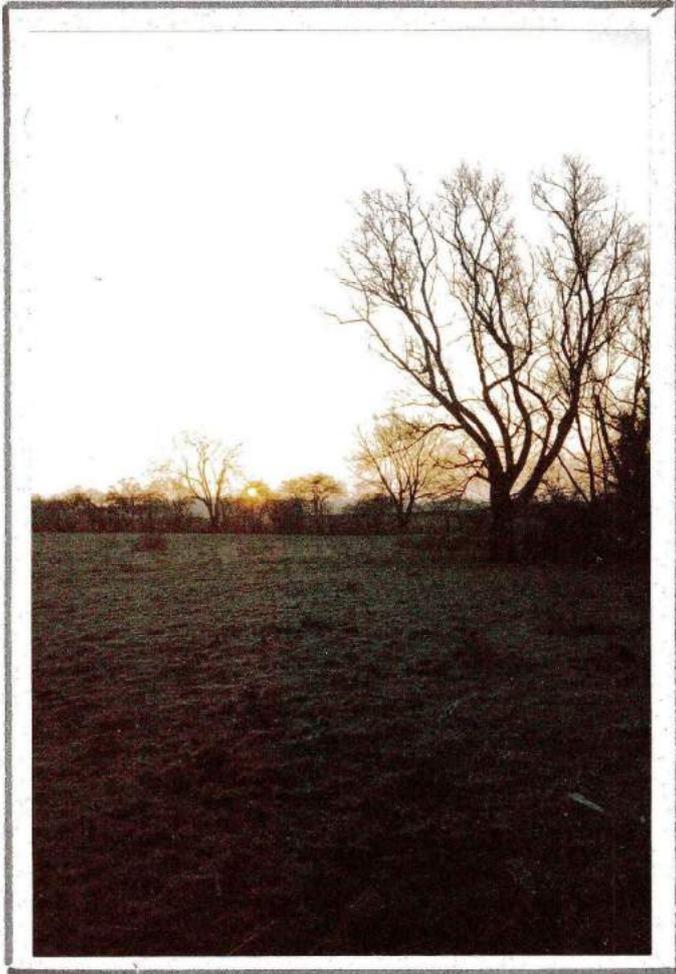
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The Market Place
Howden. about 1869.



JANUARY





'DAWN ON NEW YEAR'S DAY

January

New Year's morning was very cold and crisp - a bit misty, but soon cleared into a lovely winter's day. The sun melted the ice on the greenhouse windows by lunch time. The low wattage heater plus a small paraffin lamp have kept the temperature inside above freezing. The first Sunday night of the month brought a nice covering of snow and apparently, the usual chaos on the country's roads. The sheep were pleased to get their breakfast and extra hay as grass is hard to find under the snow. There are definite signs now that lambing is getting near, so at the moment their well-being is priority. The time had come to make the awful decision about the ram. He had been poorly again during the Christmas break and the feeling was that it was no longer kind to keep him in that state. It is a very bad feeling as animals always trust their keeper even to being led to slaughter, but the nature of the world is births and deaths so maybe nature will provide a new master of the flock from this year's lambs.

All the Christmas decorations are down and safely put away - all over till the end of the year. The cards have been sorted through as well. Those with letters on them have been answered and then any that are suitable are cut up to be used as parcel labels next Christmas.

Quite suddenly after three cold weeks the frost released its grip and some wintery sunshine made things quite pleasant outside. Opportunity was taken to open up the greenhouse and check all the plants for dead or dying foliage which is removed to prevent disease. One or two permanent plants could be given fresh compost but all the plants still need to be kept fairly dry at present. Also an hour was spent in the garden clearing a few dead stalks away - It was lovely to discover a clump of snowdrops out near the house wall and quite a number of other bulbs are showing well already.

What fickle weather we have - one lovely day then back to ice - snow wind. On the coldest day because of biting wind a ewe decided to present twin lambs. She had the sense to go into the warmest corner of the shed and without much effort produced the first - a nice ram lamb - the second was a ewe and it was quite obvious from the beginning which was which. It is always amazing watching these animals come into the world. For the most part they arrive quickly and quietly and within a few minutes are trying to stand. Only shortly after that they are looking for the milk supply and as soon as they have had a fill up of warm milk they seem to be able to stand the cold weather. The next morning these two were trying to

Jan cont:-

skip about but the ram found his legs too ungainly and landed on his belly. Not to be put off he tried again and skipped all round the pen. Perhaps he will be the replacement for the old fellow. It will not be long before they have some company as another ewe looks nearly ready.

The next day brought a tragedy. The expected lamb was obviously on its way but as time went on it was apparent that all was not well. A closer examination revealed that the vet was needed. The lamb had been dead in the womb for some time and was very difficult to get out. After an hour of patient work at last things went right, the poor ewe was exhausted and the vet declared it was the worst lambing he had ever done in his whole life. After two injections and a clean bed round her the ewe was left to recover. Life has its ups and downs as two days later she was well on the mend and out grazing in the field. Another set of twins had arrived without any trouble and as the weather was fairly good they could all go out in the small paddock for a few hours, giving the mums chance to graze a bit and the lambs could stretch their legs. Even at a few days old they can scamper about at a good speed.

The fourth weekend of the month was the time for a terrific gale. It did the lot.

Howling wind, Thunderstorm, hailstones and driving rain. It is a miracle to escape some form of storm damage after such powerful winds so the next morning after a very restless night because of the roaring of the gale, it was no surprise to find a roof light broken off the barn roof.

The covers on the cold frame had blown off and glass broken and part of the garden fence had come adrift. Others had not been so fortunate as at the docks a mile away the road was littered with roofing sheets off the warehouses near the river.

One of the local garden centres was having a sale, two shrubs for the price of one, so it was a good opportunity to purchase a few bargains. A pleasant hour or so can be spent at any time looking round these places as there always seems to be something new arriving.

After the gale the weather settled down and the month ended on a very pleasant springlike note. The garden looks good with snowdrops and quite a few crocus are out already. It is too early yet for spring to have arrived, despite the signs of growth on many plants - there is sure to be a change for the worse before long, that is why it is best to enjoy each day as it comes, some outdoors some indoors doing jobs suitable for the occasion.



FEBRUARY





February 1991

A picturesque scene



All this fell in onenight



Feeding Time

A cold time but they all got through it well

FEBRUARY

February came in pretending to be Spring. The days were mild and dry and no frost at night so saving on greenhouse heat. Crocus flowers are well out and daffodil buds are showing. The weeping willows are going to be cut back sharply if there is a change for the worse as their buds are bursting.

Beautiful big catkins are hanging in abundance and jorystia is in bloom already.

With the marked lengthening of the days it is very noticeable that plants are growing, especially the geraniums that are lucky enough to live in the house. The cuttings of the mermaid vine taken a few weeks ago are well established and growing on nicely.

A few very early tomato seeds were grown enough to put into little pots - hopefully for some fruit in June. 'Gardeners delight' were chosen for this as they are a very tasty fruit.

Searching through seeds at the garden centre produced some tomato seeds suitable for hanging baskets, so these will be tried this year. Now is the time to plan what annuals to grow for the flower beds. Some seeds of "poached egg plant" saved from last summer were put in a tray on a south facing window sill and soon came through.

The four lambs born last month are doing very well - they have been very lucky as there has been no bad weather to set them back. Unfortunately it looks as if there will be no more lambs. It

must be presumed that the rams illness prevented him from getting the rest pregnant. Although they all look in good condition there is no sign of impending births which should be well in evidence by now. The worst fact being is that a very good ram lamb went to the butcher and it is obvious from dates worked out that he is the father of the four born already.

Towards the month end a few more trays of seeds were put to propagate. Things suitable for summer borders later on Geranium cuttings put eight to a pot last back end are ready to be potted up singly now, as they are showing signs of growth. The cuttings bought in at the beginning of the month look established and will make a few unusual additions to the collection.

Having been exceptionally mild all the month the last two days brought biting north east winds and a light covering of snow. It was most unpleasant going outside so jobs indoors were the order of the day.

A bit of knitting in the form of two little cardigans for the new grandson was completed and also some flower arrangements were re-done for a friend. The new hobby of painting canal boat ware seems to be going well. Searching goes on all the time for suitable items to paint which is part of the fun.

February cont.

The local car boot sale which is very popular and well attended is an ideal place for finding all sorts of suitable items ranging from galvanised to steel, aluminium, copper ware, pottery, old scales - in fact almost anything! It is satisfying to see rust and dirt replaced by paint and flowers. It is also a good way of not wasting many bad weather days this time of year as this hobby can be done on the kitchen table. When completed and varnished it all adds great cheerfulness to otherwise dull days. It is easy to understand why the canal boat people of yesterday liked to decorate their narrow boats in this way. In fact the narrow boat is in the process of making a comeback but whereas in older days they worked, now they are giving great pleasure to many people.

At the farm across the road they have started in earnest putting tillage on the land. The winter crops are looking nice and green in spite of the terrible wet weather we have had which has left many areas under water. The lorries have also been arriving to take away last years bean crop which have been stored in the corn drier shed. The cats have a great time hunting over there and along with the farm's own cats are keeping the rats and mice down well.

Although nature starts waking up the new years growth and lambs arrive this month will be noted down for the tragic loss of a favourite dog. As he was in the prime of life his sudden untimely death brought great sorrow. Their lives are short enough without being snatched away early. Presumably this is what is referred to as the balance of nature.

It has been rather cold for spending time in the garden but as March approaches days are lengthening nicely. It is noticeable that the birds are pairing up and starlings already taking chunks of moss and grass into their nesting holes.

Spring will not be long : - - -



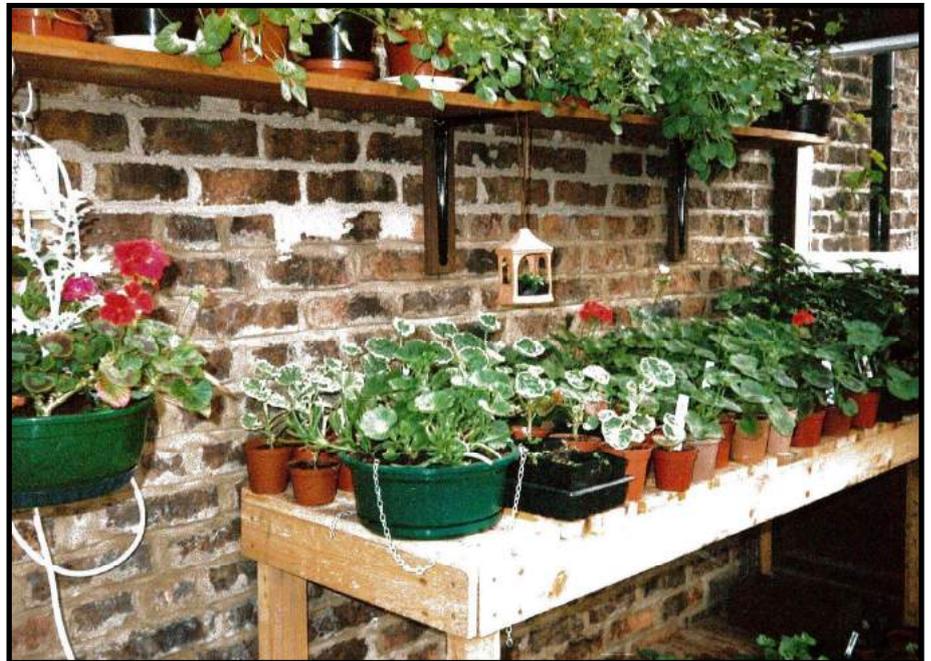
MARCH



DAFFODILS AT
PRIORY FARM.



Time for Play



*Looking well in the
Greenhouse*



*Tillage spreader
ready for work*

MARCH

Although the month has started out much drier than of late it is still rather cold, the winds being either northerly or easterly, which makes it most unpleasant. The south facing aspect of the greenhouse makes it a good place to spend a few hours as there are plenty of plants needing fresh compost or larger pots - some needing splitting up and some of the variegated geraniums have grown so well it is possible to get a few cuttings. These are brought in to the warmth of the house to get rooted, and should be large enough for flowering this summer. An order was sent off for another batch of miniature geraniums so the collection will be improved. These come from a specialist nursery down south and are always excellent little plants, travelling well in their special box and soon grow on well once potted up.

Early in the month a hobbies exhibition was attended with a selection of canal painting. This aroused great interest and even a photograph of it appeared in the press. It was an extremely pleasant day with a lovely atmosphere, - certainly a date to look forward to in future years.

As it is an exhibition of people's interests it is also possible to display knitted items and soft toys made during

MARCH

the long winter evenings. Also a friend who likes to go along takes her papier mache and decoupage.

Out in the garden is a good show of primroses, crocus and the daffodils are coming out. Clematis and honeysuckle are showing good growth and have been tidied up ready for flowering later. The soil is very wet and soggy so not much can be done yet except clearing up dead leaves and sticks blown down by the wind.

Some of the villagers have already cut their lawns and as soon as the weather is suitable the same will happen here as the grass is suddenly growing fast.

Pretty Pink blossom is appearing on a little tree across the road and the alder catkins are clustered in huge bunches. The huge sticky buds on the horse chestnuts are looking nearly ready to burst open. Their spring green along with the weeping willow beside them makes a beautiful picture.

Mid March seems to be a time for gales which makes going outside quite unpleasant. The hanging baskets have been filled with cascading geraniums - some red some a pretty shade of deep pink. Bolt varieties are very vigorous so planted now can be in full bloom when it is time to go outside in May. All the scented leaved geraniums have been cleaned up of dead foliage - some repotted and all have had a good feed which will continue

during the year. Most of these are large shrubby plants and look good in their own individual containers. They have great variations in their flowers, from huge blooms to tiny star like ones. This along with all the different leaf scents makes them just about the most interesting group of geraniums.



April

APRIL





Spring Green



Goslings at Priory Farm



New part of the garden

April -

This month things really begin to move fast. Trees are looking tinged with beautiful spring green young leaves. This is the start of a new year from Mother Nature. The hints of spring like snowdrops and early daffodils have made way for the later narcissus and bluebells - hyacinths and huge crown imperials. Quite a few weeds are beginning to grow so on with the gardening gear and get tidied up in the flower beds. Cuttings can now be taken of the late flowering dwarf chrysanthemums and put to root in the cold frame.

The sun is suddenly much higher in the sky and the greenhouse plants are really beginning to benefit, filling out quite a lot and buds starting to appear. A few more scented geraniums have been added to the collection, also a few species plants and uniques. Feeding has begun now and all the plants look well. Hanging baskets have been planted and hung up from the roof beams where they will stay till frost danger has passed.

The goslings that will be ready for Christmas dinner will soon be arriving next door - tiny fluffy yellow babies that can grow in a few months to be quite ferocious creatures in some cases. They grow at a quite spectacular rate and do a jolly good job of grass mowing during the summer months.

The evenings are much lighter now as well as the clocks went forward the last weekend of March it makes a big difference.

Little jobs can be planned such as repair work to gates and fences perhaps damaged by winter winds.

The brighter days show up any places indoors that need spring cleaning so this can also be got under way. It can be surprising what goes unnoticed during the dark cold days of winter when everyone is just trying to keep warm. When the better weather arrives it starts off with an urge to put things in order.

An area of the garden which used to be totally covered by a corrugated iron shed, which lost part of the roof in the winter winds, has now been planned as a walkway and pergola. At each side will be flower beds - one side having shrubs and the other easy care plants like hardy geraniums - foxgloves and euphorbias, - some very dwarf conifers and during the summer a few colourful pelargoniums, and at the end of summer some snowdrops and crocus and mini daffodils can go in for early colour next spring.

A Tangutica clematis already established on a trellis at one end has been a picture of hundreds of little yellow bells and also Chilean glory gives its all through the summer months - an endless display of clusters of orange trumpets.

The best plants to have in a garden are ones that are happy with those particular conditions. If they just refuse to thrive it is best to let go and have something else that does.

Certain pests like slugs and snails can be a particular menace to new bedding plants and hostas - a good dose of slugit does wonders overnight and lasts a few weeks.

It is a good time now to get on top of weeds like nettles and thistles while they are young and tender, and any rubbish coming up on drives and paths will soon submit to a dose of weedkiller.

There is one place just inside the field where the nettles are always left to grow as the butterflies need them and as it is left undisturbed is a shelter for pheasants and hedgehogs and other wild creatures.

Towards the month end Mrs Bluebird starts taking beakfuls of moss into the bird box. She also likes to collect dog hairs and as she flies in looks as if she has grown a little moustache. There is a lot of activity as occasionally another bird may try its luck at getting in the box - then there is a fight. These birds may be tiny but they can certainly stand up for themselves. Mrs Blackbird is also busy. She likes the honeysuckle on the side of the house and by this time of year the foliage is thick enough to hide her nest from the magpies.



MAY





The extended greenhouse



And new plants are doing well



Three nice new Suffolk ewe lambs

May

By anybody's standards Kelpin must be classed as a very small village. The few houses bordering the road through are mostly quite old - some being part of proper farms where lots of hard work goes on. Beef Bulls are reared at one - one has an indoor pig breeding unit and also produces eggs. One of the largest farms in the area forms part of the village with vast arable areas and an outdoor pig unit. Everyone is busy looking after their own places - keeping gardens looking nice, touching up paintwork when necessary. No one seems to pester anyone else and all are very neighbourly, but if anyone needs help with a job there is always someone willing to lend a hand straight away. If all the world was as uncomplicated as this village it would be a better place to live in. Hobbies seem to range from keeping pigeons, ponies, dogs and cats to gardening, fishing, playing bowls and golf. As well as being a place of activity it is also very peaceful and to be outside on a pleasant day with all of Nature's bounty around is wonderful. No price can be put on this - the coming and going of the seasons - the weather good and bad, and this month another summer is just around the corner, the wild bees are busy preparing new honey combs in

an old willow tree. Swallows have been back a few weeks and are busy nesting. Bats which have been hibernating are now busy every night at dusk catching insects.

Inside the greenhouse the cuttings are really taking off and most are now potted into 5" pots for the summer, and some can be chosen to do their display in the garden. The lawns and other grassed areas are now growing like mad and need regular cutting, and places where weeds and nettles are growing can be treated with weed-killer.

Tomato plants are showing their first fruits. A choice of salad tomatoes and bite sized ones are grown, also tried are the outdoor and tumbling varieties.

The strawberry plants bought from a catalogue have already produced fruit - treated correctly this variety can give you fruit all year round - absolutely marvellous!!

The lambs are doing really well - the fresh grass of spring brings them on at a fantastic rate. It is now possible to tell which will be suitable to add to the flock for future breeding purposes.

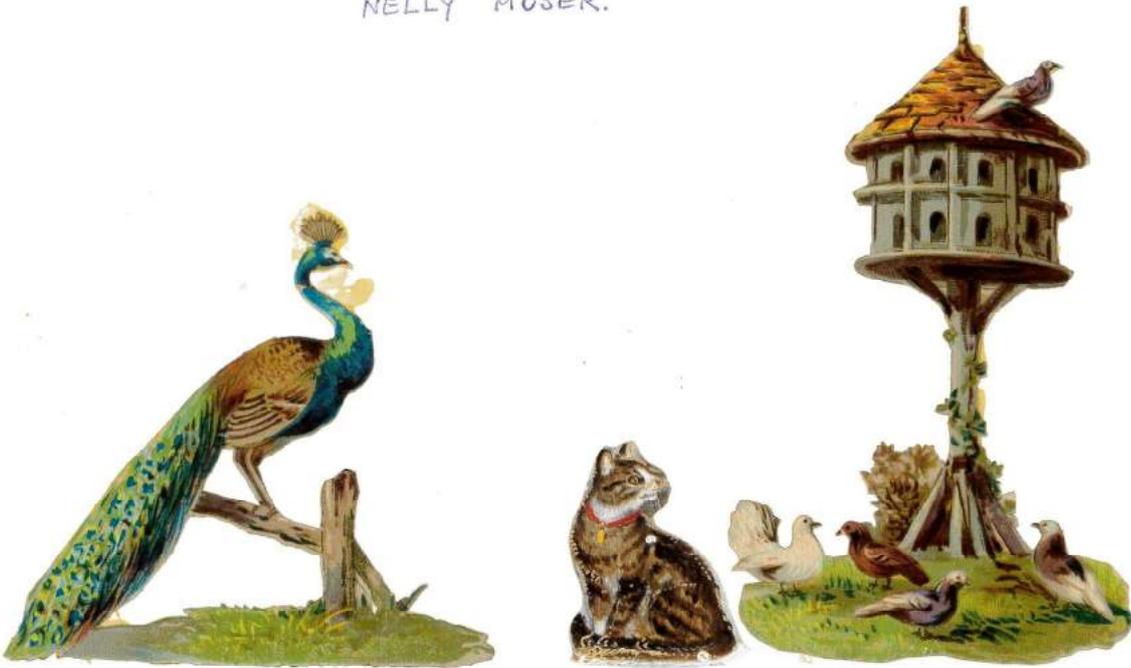
The blue tits who live in the nest box opposite the kitchen window are now dashing in and out at great speed with beaks full of grubs for their newly hatched babies. They must be worn out at the end of each day, as it is ~~not~~ stop dashing about from first light. Soon the babies poke their heads out to get the food.



JUNE



NELLY MOSER.





Ramses—Just before being shorn



*Hardy Geranium
Waldergrave Pink*



Sheep shearing early June

June.

This can be a month of really pleasant summer weather or has been known to have frosts to play havoc with newly bedded out tender plants. It has even been known to snow. Remember Coronation Year?

The baby blue tits have departed from the nest box. They usually leave early in the morning - the parent birds making it quite clear they are not going to feed them unless they come out for it! After they have gone the little box looks quite desolate - ready for a clean out too.

Early this month it is time to shear the sheep. They must feel much better getting rid of all the heavy wool now the weather is warmer - Whilst clipping it is a good time to check their feet as well - most of them need a pedicure a few times each year - If the weather has been wet one or two may have a bit of foot rot which needs special treatment but is soon under control.