



The Markenfield Irregular

Issue thirty-six Winter 2017/18

THE BLACK WALNUT TREE (*Jugans nigra*), when mature, is a noble sight. Growing to between 80 and 120 feet after a hundred years, it can be a fitting climax to a fine vista in the Yorkshire landscape.

One of the most loyal and generous of The Friends has given such a tree to Markenfield and has sponsored its meticulous planting in exactly the right position: if one stands at the front door and looks straight through the arch of the Gatehouse, there is a point on this line right next to the Mediaeval Park Pale where it now grows. The young tree, just 8 feet tall and wearing its timber guard cage, is still leafless and thus difficult to see from a distance. A useful marker is the elderly, dying Ash just to the right of this line, which will soon be gone. It is not hard to imagine how fine the Black Walnut will look there.



The Friends, and other individuals, have given - and pledged - several splendid trees, including the fine line of eight Limes to the west of the moat and the Princeton Elms along the old Mediaeval Road. Perhaps we should all come back in ninetyfive years to admire them as they approach their triumphant maturity.



Head Gardener Giles has been working additional wonders this winter, clearing the 80 yard overgrown space between the Farmhouse Wing and the moat. He has now started to plant it to his plan, balancing that with which he graced the gardens on either side of the Gatehouse three years ago.



He is being ably supported in this by his new assistant, Rebecca Moore-Yelland, who we hope might be with us for a long time. Formerly a solicitor, she decided to devote the second half of her life to horticulture and Markenfield is currently the lucky beneficiary.



The View from the Gatehouse

Issue Eight

The Great Exhibition

As you will have seen from The Friends' newsletter, work has been underway all winter on the Hall's first archive-based exhibition; which will take place during the traditional 30 Open Days this year.

The Hall has an extensive archive collection dating back to the time of 1st Lord Grantley, and this collection was catalogued throughout the "noughties" by a dedicated team of Archivists from Nidd Valley NADFAS led by the late Dr Liz Scott.

One section of the archives is dedicated to Caroline Norton - wife of George Norton and sister in law of 3rd Lord Grantley. Caroline may no longer be a household name in many homes up and down the country - but she is here - and we are telling her story this year in an attempt to shed some light on her story and give her the recognition she deserves, especially her lobbying for the rights of married women being enshrined in law.

Janet Senior and Dr Maryon Dougil, from The Friends' Archive & Research Group, have spent the winter transcribing a number of the Caroline Norton documents - letters, poems and plays - and it is these that will be on display in the Great Hall when the Hall opens on 29th April. There will be a preview evening for our Volunteer Stewards on Wednesday 11th April, when we hope that they will both enjoy what we have created. Work is currently underway on an Exhibition Catalogue, which will be available during the 30 Open Days, outlining Caroline's life and works - as well as the documents on display.



We are also putting together an application for Women's History Network Community History Prize 2018, sponsored by the History Press, which is awarded to the team behind a Community History Project by, about, or for women in a particular locale or community which has been completed between the 1 January 2017 and 31 May 2018. Whilst we have no great expectations of winning, it will be an interesting process

work through - the prize is £500, and just in case... we were hoping for suggestions on ways to spend it! Ideally ways that would make Caroline's name synonymous with women's rights once more, take her name out into the community and promote the role that she played in history - and in the Grantley family.

If you can think of any ways that we could promote the exhibition - places that would take posters or leaflets, groups that might be interested - or ways that we could spend our imaginary winnings, do please get in touch with Sarah (01765 692303 or info@markenfield.com).

OPEN DAYS 2018

Sunday 29 April to Sunday 13 May
& Sunday 10 to Sunday 24 June
2:00pm to 5:00pm each day

