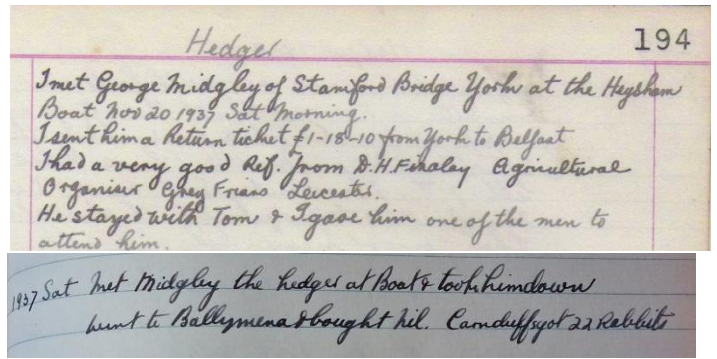


Mr Cunningham's Diary

I met George Midgley of Stamford Bridge York at the Heysham Boat Nov 20 1937 Sat Morning
I sent him a return ticket £1-18-10 from York to Belfast
I had a very good Ref. From D.H. Finalay Agricultural
Organiser Grey Friars Leicester.
He stayed with Tom & I gave him one of the men to
attend him.



Postcard

Postmark 22nd November 1937

Drawing of Lough Neagh & Shanes Castle, Antrim on front
Addressed to Miss D Midgley, Cowick Hall, Goole, England

"Dear D

I arrived safe after a very pleasant trip. I am near this Lough.
c/o Mrs Steele
Dungonnell
British
Crumlin
N Ireland"



Mr Cunningham's Diary

George Midgley at my hedge right angles from
Avenue
Nov 1937

Mr Cunningham's Diary Dec 8th 1937

Hedgelaying demonstration but I could not get down

Letter

About 10th December 1937

Address; c/o Mrs Steele

Dungonnell

British

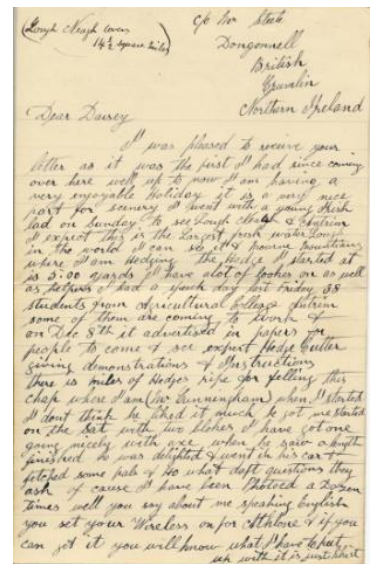
Crumlin

Northern Ireland

"(Lough Neagh covers 14 1/2 square miles)

Dear Daisey

I was pleased to receive your letter as it was the first I had since coming over here.
Well up to now I am having a very enjoyable holiday. It is a very nice part for
scenery. I went with a young Irish lad on Sunday to see Lough Neagh and Antrim. I
expect this is the largest fresh water lough in the world. I can see it and the Mourne



Mountains when I am hedging. The hedge I started on is 500 yards. I have a lot of lookers on as well as helpers. I had a speech day last Friday, 38 students from Agricultural College Antrim, some of them are coming to work and on Dec 8th it advertised in papers for people to come and see expert Hedge Cutter giving demonstrations and instructions. There is miles of hedge ripe for felling. This chap where I am (Mr Cunningham), when I started, I don't think he liked it much. he got me started on the Sat with two blokes. I have got one going nicely with an axe. When he saw a length finished he was delighted and he went in his car and fetched some pals and Ho what daft questions they ask. Of course I have been photoed a dozen times. Well you say about me speaking English, you set your wireless on for Athlone & if you can get it you will know what I have to put up with it is just like it.

I have heard a lot about Pigs & Poultry in Ireland living in the house. This is not so as I have not seen a Pig anywhere yet & only one farm with poultry. This farm where I am has only 3 geese no Ducks or Poultry but they have an Aberdeen Bull & a lot of Black Cattle. One thing surprises me is the houses only have one door & all whitewashed. This house is dated 1699 thatched, buildings all new up to date, potatoes are stored in a large shed.

Mrs Cunningham has a fancy for planting shrubs & roses all over & wants me to leave all wild Roses & Crab trees standing.

I received a letter from Mother & card. It was a day late for Birthday. They sent me prices some of the things made at sale & that a back axle had Broke so expect it is the cars axle & Hubert has gone to work with woodmen so they will be getting settled down by the time I get back. I don't know if I shall be staying longer than a month yet one chap was saying I could have my ticket extended.

I think I have told you all this time so will close.

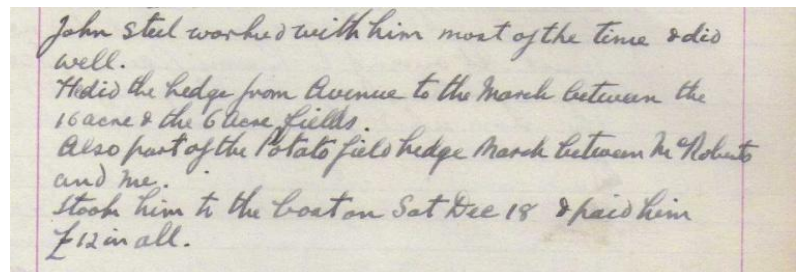
From Dad"

Mr Cunningham's Diary

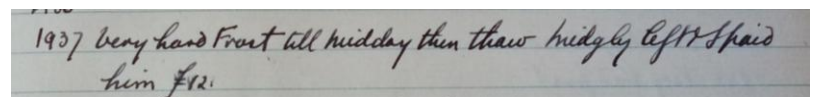
John Steel worked with him most of the time & did well

He did the hedge from Avenue to the march between the 16 acre & the 6 Acre fields. Also part of the Potato field hedge march between Mr Roberts and me.

I took him to the boat on Sat Dec 18 & paid him £12 in all.



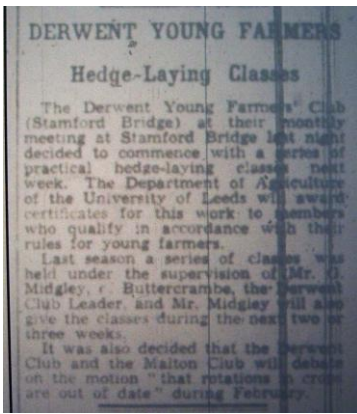
*John steel worked with him most of the time & did well.
He did the hedge from Avenue to the March between the 16 acre & the 6 Acre fields.
Also part of the Potato field hedge March between Mr Roberts and me.
Took him to the boat on Sat Dec 18 & paid him £12 in all.*



1937 very hard Frost till midday then thaw midgly left & paid him £12.

George Midgley at my march hedge between Mr Roberts and my field. Dec 1937



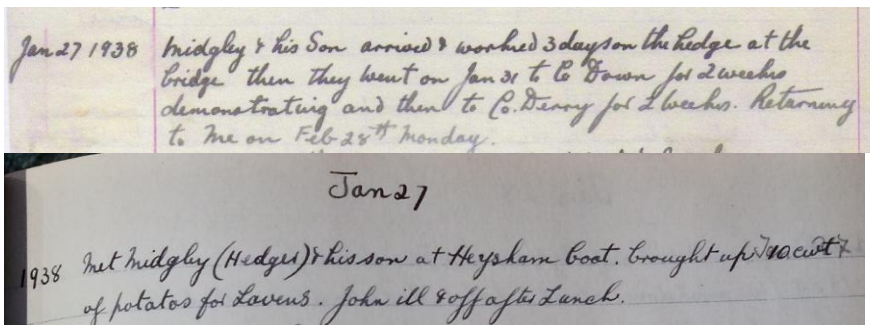


Newspaper Cutting

York Evening Press 31st December 1937

The Derwent Young Farmers Club (Stamford Bridge) at their monthly meeting at Stamford bridge last night decided to commence with a series of practical hedge-laying classes next week. The Department of Agriculture of the University of Leeds will award certificates for this work to members who qualify in accordance with their rules for young farmers.

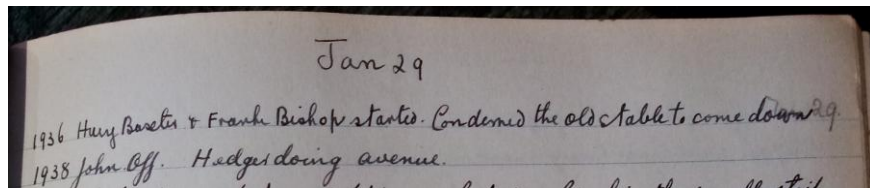
Last season a series of classes was held under the supervision of Mr G. Midgley, of Buttercrambe, the Derwent Club Leader, and Mr Midgley will also give the classes during the next two or three weeks.



Mr Cunningham's Diary

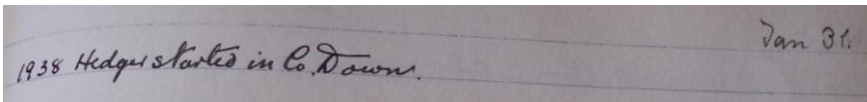
Jan 27 1938

Midgley & his son arrived & worked 3 days on the hedge at the bridge then they went on Jan 31 to Co Down for 2 weeks demonstrating and then to Co Derry for 2 weeks. Returning to me on Feb 28th Monday.



Jan 29 1938

Hedgers doing Avenue



Jan 31 1938

Hedger started in Co Down

Postcard

About 1st February 1938

Photo of Sunken Gardens, Mountstewart on front
No stamp or address

"Dear Dasey

I am sending you a line just to let you know we are having a great reception over here. If you had listened in to N.Ireland on Monday night you would have heard about us & our programme. We are at a fresh place every day. If you have a map you can see where we are on the sea coast, Donaghda, Ballywalter, Cloughy, Portaferry, Killeagh, Downpatrick, Ballynahinch, Cronleer, Newtownards. On Sat we go to Moiria that is our finish in Down. It is a grand place for a holiday. They have asked me if I should be at liberty next September. They seem to have had hedgers here before but not like us. We have great crowds every day. They say we had over 500 to see us on Monday. I have had to go to two J.P.'s fine places to tell the Gardeners how to cut a Hedge & tomorrow have to give advise to a chap that is a M.P."



PUBLIC NOTICES.
COUNTY DOWN COMMITTEE OF AGRICULTURE
HEDGE CUTTING AND LAYING DEMONSTRATIONS.
 THE ABOVE COMMITTEE has invited an expert from England to demonstrate this art at the following centres :-
 Wednesday, 2nd February — Mr. James M'Comick, Whitechurch, Ballywater.
 Thursday, 3rd February — Mr. James Donnan, Ballyspurge, Portlerry. One mile from Cloughey.
 Friday, 4th February — Mr R J. Pack-Beresford, J.P., Woburn, Donaghadee.
 Saturday, 5th February — Mr. Robt. Patterson, Monlough, Ballygowan. Carryduff to Ballygowan Road.
 Monday, 7th February — Mr. David Munn, Cottage House, Comber.
 Tuesday, 8th February — Mr. Joseph Tate, Ballyminstra, Killinchy. Comber to Killinchy Road.
 Wednesday, 9th February — Messrs. G. & S. Neill, Ballydonnity, Ballydugan, Downpatrick. Downpatrick to Seaforde Road.
 Thursday, 10th February — Mr. John M'Churg, Ballygally, Downpatrick. Killyleagh to Downpatrick Road, near Pikestone.
 Friday, 11th February — Mr G. Martin, Bishopscourt, Downpatrick. Downpatrick to Ballyhornan Road.
 Saturday, 12th February — Mr. George Irwin, Fortwilliam, Moira. Beside Moira Orange Hall.
 Demonstrations will be conducted each day from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 All interested are invited to attend.
 J. L. M'WHINNEY,
 Organising Secretary,
 78, May Street, Belfast.

Newspaper Cutting

Northern Whig 2nd February 1938

**County Down Committee of Agriculture
 Hedge Cutting and Laying Demonstrations**

The above Committee has invited an expert from England to demonstrate this art at the following centres:-

Miss McCartney
 Cross St
 Killyleagh
 Co Down

Dear Mother

We have just go to this place
 We have had a big crowd again today to see us we are here untill Sat morning & then we are going to Derry on Sunday. It is no good me trying to tell you what this country is like as it is the finest place I ever saw we was on the sea coast last week about 17 miles ride on coast road & close to the sea at play some days the crowd is so big we can't work for them & every body is very good to us I am sending you a card of one house where we were at & had dinner & tea to day we have been at a better place he is master of Hare Hounds we have seen more hares in one field today than I ever saw before & all nearly white. We are having a great time I think Hubert is enjoying it. I don't think this is as big a place as Newtownards but it is very nice near sea & on the other side of Stanford Lough & nearer Mourne Mountains. We had a very large photo in a paper last week. Hubert sent one to Miss T. I expect we shall be Photoed at Limavady. There is a big entry for Ploughing & they expect 8,000 people I am sending our programme for this week.

Letter

About 7th February 1938

Address; Miss McCartney

Cross Street

Killyleagh

Co Down

Monday

"Dear Mother

We have just go to this place. We have had a big crowd again today to see us and we are here until Sat Morning & then we are going to Derry on Sunday.

It is no good me trying to tell you what this country is like as it is the finest place I ever saw. We was on the sea coast last week about 17 miles ride on coast road & close to the sea at play. Some days the crowd is so big we can't work for them & everybody is very good to us. I am sending you a card of one house where we were at & had dinner & tea. Today we have been at a better place, he is master of Hare Hounds. We have seen more hares in one field today than I ever saw before & all nearly White. We are having a great time. I think Hubert is enjoying it. I don't think this is as big a place as Newtownards but it is very nice near sea & on the other side of Stanford Lough & nearer Mourne Mountains. We had a very large photo in a paper last week. Hubert sent one to Miss T. I expect we shall be Photoed at Limavady. There is a big entry for Ploughing & they expect 8,000 people. I am sending our programme for this week."

Postcard

About 10th February 1938

Picture of Strangford Lough and Scrabo Hill, Newtownards on front

No stamp or address

"Thursday

2

This is place where we lodged for a week & last Sunday went up to the

Tower. This is where we can see Scotland. The landing ground for planes is here as well. So next week we go to Derry & on Wed to International where 8,000 is expected so I can't give you our address for next week yet but if you write to our old address we shall get them. Tell Mr Hardy he ought to have grass like it is here for his lambs there is a lot about. They tell us there is never a rainy day only showers.

I did not get any pups shifted so if you hear of anyone wanting one you know where they are. Hubert has gone to

Pictures tonight we are at Killyleagh,

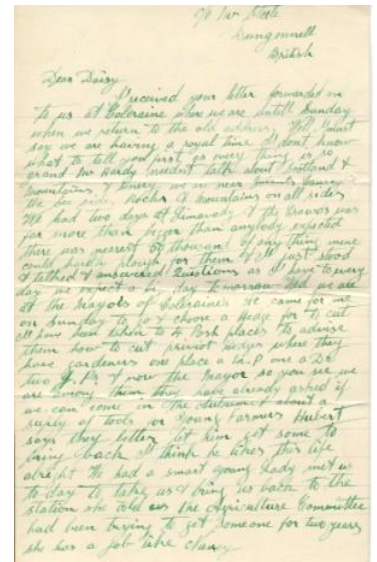
I think this is all this time,

Dad"



Strangford Lough and Scrabo Hill, Newtownards.

Letter
 Written in Green Ink
 About 22nd February 1938
 Address; c/o Mrs Steele
 Dungonnell
 British



“Dear Daisy,
 I received your letter forwarded on to us at Coleraine where we are until Sunday when we return to the old address. Well I must say we are having a royal time I don't know what to tell you first as everything is so grand. Mrs Hardy needn't talk about Scotland & Mountains & Scenery. We are near Giants Causey, the sea side, Rocks & Mountains on all sides.
 We had two days at Limavady and the crowds was far more bigger than anybody expected, there was nearest 50 thousand of anything. Men could hardly plough for them and I just stood and talked and answered questions as I have to do every day. We expect a big day tomorrow, Wed, we are at the Mayor of Coleraines. he came for me on Sunday to go and choose a hedge for to cut. I have been taken to 4 posh places to advise them how to cut priviot hedges where they have gardeners. One place a M.P., one a Doctor, two J.P.'s and now the Mayor, so you can see we are among them. They have already asked if we can come in Autumn and about a supply of tools for Young Farmers. Hubert says they better let him get some to bring back. I think he likes this life alright. We had a smart young lady met us today to take us & bring us back to the station. She told us the Agriculture Committee had been trying to get someone for two years. She has a job like Nancy.
 I will send you some more views when I can get some.
 I will enclose a list of places we have been at in Co Derry & you can let it go home some time as I might want it next year.
 I was pleased to hear you was going home for a day or two. Hope you found Mother well. Remember me to all.
 I think there is no more this time,
 Love From Dad”

Postcard
 Written in Green Ink
 About 22nd February 1938
 Photo of Scrabo Tower, Newtonards on front



“You can let Mr Hardy have this. It is to let him know he knows Aberdeen & until he sees what we saw at Limavady about 200 in yards Feeding & 100 out grazing that have never been in this winter. I don't think there is any winter here as the grass is as green in a lot of fields as it ever will be in Summer in E & for horses, this (Mr Drennan) is the place for Clydesdale you see his farm is 650 acres. The field where the ploughing was is 50 & where tractors was another 50.
 Hubert went to try to get some cigs but couldn't get within 50 yards of the tent, it was like a race meeting, three card trick men and all sorts. The Mayor told me he had to walk 3 miles from where he could park his car.”

1938 Sun met midgley at bus & took them to Toms.

Feb 27 1938
 Met Midgley at bus & took them to Toms

Mr Cunningham's Diary
 Feb 28 1938
 He started with me again and did up to March 12.

March 5
 Called & got load of small stakies from Shanes Castle for Hedger.
 Midgley started the hedge between the two low fields.

1938 Sat Called & got load of small stakies from Shanes Castle for Hedger.
 Hay still coming over. Brought down 500 Guineas.
 Geese had started to Lay
 Midgley started the hedge between the two low fields.

March 12

Midgley had done down to the first hedge on Avenue & will be away a week.

1938 Sat Midgley had done down to the first hedge on Avenue & will be away a week. A Bullock ill. Gave it 20 of the 15 Capsols. Ploughing potato land after the drishy. Don H & Kiddle's down. Mothers & Father's down.

On Monday March 14 he was with Mawhinney Co Down and March 15 to March 21 he was at Chains Castle.

March 21 Mon

Down to Randlestown & got Midgley's. They start on Tuesday

1938 Mon Down to Randlestown & got Midgley's. They start on Tuesday

March 22 Tuesday he started again with me & finished on March 31 when I took them both to Heysham boat. I paid them £32. 24 days in all.

The following were done.

Hedge on left side of avenue coming up from the bridge to the house 31 1/2 chains

Hedge from Corner of Avenue to house on Right side

5 1/2 chains

Hedge from Stream up to corner of 3 fields

9 1/2 chains

Part of Hedge up last years potato ground to Mr Robert's march

7 chains

Part of Hedge between Mr Roberts & I

5 1/2 chains

Total 59 chains

Feb 24 He started with me again and did up to March 12. On Monday March 14 he was with Mawhinney Co Down and March 15 to March 21 he was at Chains Castle. March 22 Tuesday he started again with me. I finished on March 31. When I took them both to Heysham Boat. I paid them £32. 24 days in all. The following were done. Hedge on left side of Avenue coming up from the bridge to the house. Hedge from Corner of Avenue to house on Right side. Hedge from Stream up to corner of 3 fields. Part of Hedge up last years potato ground to Mr Robert's march. Part of Hedge between Mr Roberts & I. June All hedges sprouting well but those done in November much further on than later ones. July All doing well. Some low laid parts dead but they had been shifted by stock. I had the grass & bramble cut back then.

March 31

Went down at 8.15 & took Midgley's to the boat & paid them £32 & gave them £6 from Marsham

1938 Went down at 8.15 & took the Midgley's to the Boat paid them £32. & gave them £6 from Marsham.

June; All hedges sprouting well but those done in November much further on than later ones

July; All doing well. Some low laid parts dead but they had been shifted by stock. I had the grass & bramble cut back then.

Letter

Believed to be about February 1939

Address; Dungonnell

"Sunday

Dungonnell Sunday Dear Mother I received your letter on Sat so I am sending you a few lines to let you know we are off on Monday again for a week to a new address so if you write before next Sunday address it to c/o Mr H Hutchinson, 20 Shanes St, Randalstown, Co Antrim. We demonstrate at Lisburn on Monday it is about 30 miles ride. I don't think they would let us come home if we could hedge all summer. Sorry to hear George has been ill but expect he will be up again now. I think I may try to write to Agnes & tell her to come over here. We are having fine weather, we have only had two wet days both Sats so we are doing well. I think hedges are going to get too forward in leaf to cut much longer but expect Mr Cunningham will want us 2 weeks after next. Hubert & me was weighed last Sunday & we are about 7lb each heavier than when we came. I expected to have some more Photos before now but shall be having some next week & I haven't got paper this week with Mrs Neeses letter in. I had a letter this week from Kathleen telling me all Young F news. They want me home to have a photo of club members as they are runners up for the efficiency prize so they have got £300. H had a letter from Jim. He sent paper with bit about Catton in & we see Don is coming to Stamford Bridge next week. I haven't heard from Daisy yet. I think I have no more this time. With love George xxxxx"

Dear Mother,

I received your letter on Sat so I am sending you a few lines to let you know we are off on Monday again for a week to a new address so if you write before next Sunday address it to c/o Mr H Hutchinson, 20 Shanes St, Randalstown, Co Antrim.

We demonstrate at Lisburn on Monday it is about 30 miles ride. I don't think they would let us come home if we could hedge all summer.

Sorry to hear George has been ill but expect he will be up again now. I think I may try to write to Agnes & tell her to come over here. We are having fine weather, we have only had two wet days both Sats so we are doing well. I think hedges are going to get too forward in leaf to cut much longer but expect Mr Cunningham will want us 2 weeks after next. Hubert & me was weighed last Sunday & we are about 7lb each heavier than when we came. I expected to have some more Photos before now but shall be having some next week & I haven't got paper this week with Mrs Neeses letter in.

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With love

George xxxxx"

THE COUNTY DOWN COMMITTEE OF AGRICULTURE.

HEDGE-CUTTING & LAYING DEMONSTRATIONS

THE ABOVE COMMITTEE has invited experts from England to demonstrate this art at the following centres:—

SATURDAY, 18th February.—Mr. T. J. BOYD, Orchard Hill, Greengraves, Dundonald. (Belfast to Newtownards Old Road.)

MONDAY, 20th February.—Mr. RICHARD H. WATSON, Ballyhomra, Hillsborough. (Legacurry to Hillsborough Road.)

TUESDAY, 21st February.—Mr. W. J. GIBSON, Magheraknock, Ballynahinch. (Ballynahinch to Lisburn Road.)

WEDNESDAY, 22nd February.—Mr. D. McCLEMENTS, Ballyhalbert. (Ballyhalbert to Glastry Road.)

THURSDAY, 23rd February.—Mr. WILLIAM PENTLAND, Lisowen, Saintfield. (Saintfield to Crossgar Road.)

SATURDAY, 25th February.—Major C. HERON, Tullyveery, Killyleagh. (Derryboy to Killyleagh Road.)

A DEMONSTRATION will be conducted each day from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. All interested are invited to attend.

J. L. McWHINNEY, Organising Secretary.

78, May Street, Belfast.

Mr Cunningham's Diary

Hedges 1939

Midgley & his son were over with Co Down Committee in Feb 1939. I got them to go up to Dunlops on March 1 & do a fence. They then started for me on March 2 Thurs & did till 7th. Thurs. Friday. Sat. Mon. Tues. They first did the hedge opp. The door of house then some of Magee side of Avenue. Then to do the far side of Orchard but did not finish it owing to heavy rain. I called down for them on Tuesday night & brought the son up & paid them £5 for the five days.

195

Hedges 1939.

Midgley & his Son were over with Co Down Committee in Feb 1939. I got them to go up to Dunlops on March 1 & do a fence. They then started for me on March 2 Thurs & did till 7th. Thurs. Friday. Sat. Mon. Tues. They first did the hedge opp. the door of house then some of Magee side of Avenue. Then to do the far side of Orchard. but did not finish it owing to heavy rain. I called down for them on Tuesday night & brought the son up & paid them £5 for the five days.

Mar 1 1939

Went out to Dunlops with Midgley & he did the day there.

1939 went out to Dunlops with Midgley & he did the day there

Mar 2 1939

The Midgleys start my work again. Did small strip of hedge opposite the house.

1939 Thurs. The Midgley's start my work again. Did small strip of hedge opposite the house

Mar 4 1939

Midgley's doing the hedge down the avenue next Magee. Very wet at night & land in a terrible state. Planted a part of the new hedge beside the shed. Brought down 500 good big 5 year old quicks.

1939 Sat. Midgley's doing the hedge down the avenue next Magee very wet at night & land in a terrible state. Planted a part of the new hedge beside the shed. Brought down 500 good big 5 year old quicks.

Mar 7 1939

Went down about 3.30 Calling Antrim. Brought up Hugh Midgley & paid G. Midgley £5 for the 5 days he had done for me.

1939 Tues. went down about 3.30 Calling Antrim Brought up Hugh Midgley & paid G. Midgley £5 for the 5 days he had done for me. Brought up potatoes. Very hot Day. Guess had Layed 4 eggs