

February 17, 1942

Dear Father,

I imagine we shall need a Committee meeting quite early in March if we are to hold a meeting by the middle of April, which I think was our plan.

Do you know anything about East Malling? Has it been bombed out of existence, or evacuated to God knows where, or taken over by the military authorities; or is it still where it was, capable of putting up a very decent show in experimental work with fruit trees and vegetables? If I remember right, it was not inconveniently far from London, though far enough from those who have to approach it from the North side. If you do not happen to know the situation at the moment, will you send a line to Hatton or Hoblyn, or Roach, and see if they would like to invite us, and, if so, whether the local pubs could rise to the occasion. This would make a meeting essentially without papers.

In suggesting the possibility of joint meetings with the Entomological, the Linnean, the Zoo, etc, I had in mind not only the vacuum left by the absence of the B.A. gatherings, but also

the fact that these Societies with their own premises make indoor or Winter meetings a good deal more possible. Of course we could hire a room at the Linnean, as in former years; but, if many members expected the meeting to be badly attended, badly attended it would be for this very reason, whereas a joint meeting with other societies is a novelty, and those who could come would, I think, be attracted.

So I do not see why a meeting with the Entomological in November or December should be taken as a substitute for an open-air late Summer or Autumn gathering, if this seems feasible. It would maintain the balance between Zoology and Botany if we had one at the Zoo at Easter, two perhaps at East Malling and Merton during the Summer, and one at the Ent. Soc. in the Winter.

Your letter must have crossed mine about Lewis.

Yours sincerely,