

Bulletin of The Heather Society



Volume 7, number 19.

Summer 2013

Contents

Bannut forewords	1
Chairman's piece	1
Society news & events	2
Cherry Turpin	5
Sid Brown	6
2013 Members' CD, 2014 yearbook	7
RHS calls on garden lovers...	7
Connemara chit-chat	8
Riverside Park, Perth	12

Bulletin of The Heather Society

volume 7 number 19

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DIARY 2013

13 June	Council meeting, London
9–14 July	RHS Hampton Court Flower Show
5–9 September	Wisley Flower Show, RHS Gardens Wisley (see p. 4: Home Counties Group)
6–9 September	Annual Gathering 2013, Thirsk, Yorkshire
15 September	Closing date for Autumn 2013 Bulletin
28 September	Home Counties Group (see p. 4)
30 September	Closing date for contributions to 2013 CD
23 October	Council meeting, London
31 October	Closing date for <i>Heathers</i> 11 (2014)

For contact details of the Society's Officers, Editors, Group Organizers, and Administrator, see inside back cover.

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[Back cover] The Bannut, Bringsty, Bromyard WR6 5TA. 3 acres of formal and informal gardens of variety and interest set in beautiful countryside, including heather gardens covering half an acre. Open May to September; **Heather Society members free.**

Bannut forewords

Last year's wet summer obviously suited the winter/spring heathers, as I don't think I have ever seen them looking as good as they did this year. They loved the cool spring too and stayed colourful for much longer than usual. It is a good job the weather suits something!

We have had a bird's nesting box with a camera inside, fixed to our kitchen wall for several years, and every year it is occupied by a pair of blue tits. This year they started building very early and, by March, the nest was all ready for the big event. What we witnessed next was a pair of robber blue tits, who industriously removed every scrap of nesting material from the box, leaving it completely bare. We thought that would be that, for this year, but, no, back came our little heroes and started all over again. The female is now sitting on six eggs, which should be hatching at the beginning of June.

Daphne Everett

Chairman's piece

As we move from a repeat of last year's dismal cold and wet spring into, hopefully, the warmer summer days, the Society's programme swings into action with Council meetings, plans for the Society's stand at the **RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show on 9 – 14 July**, followed by our annual gathering in September. I am hopeful that following initial discussions we

can attain the dizzy heights with national TV coverage for the exhibit, and so bring the 'revival' of heathers on to the mass media.

High on the Council's agenda will be discussion on the Society's financial situation, the issues surrounding the increasing of membership fees, where economies can be made and expenditure reduced. The use of modern electronic communication facilities may be further usefully employed where suitable, appreciating that many of our members remain within the 7 million UK citizens who are not 'online'.

Recently I had the opportunity to visit Woburn and the good fortune to be given a personal guided tour of the heather parterre. (A **parterre** is a formal garden constructed on a level surface, consisting of planting beds arranged to form a pleasing, usually symmetrical pattern, with gravel paths laid between. The beds are edged in stone or tightly clipped hedging and need not contain any flowers.) [See *Heathers* 3 (2006) for a history of the Woburn parterre.]

From the photo on the cover you can get a view of this unusual but very attractive banked feature of circular heather beds about 4ft in diameter set within a graveled area, each one containing one cultivar. It is certainly a low-maintenance concept and most suitable for heather planting to give year-round colour in the ever

increasing number of gravel deserts that I view in present-day gardens ... food for thought!

David Edge

Society news & events

Annual Gathering

6 – 9 September 2013

As you will all be aware, this year we are visiting North Yorkshire. The venue is "The Golden Fleece" in Thirsk. We shall be celebrating our Golden Jubilee in a golden fashion with a full programme of speakers and visits; these include Professor Mark Seaward, Dr John Grimshaw and Dr Charles Nelson, along with trips to Newby Hall and Harlow Carr.

There is one room still available: the cost is £290 (£285 plus a non-refundable administration fee of £5) per person, which includes all meals, visits, coach and speakers.

May I remind those of you who have already booked your place that payment of the final amount (£285 per person) is due by **30 JUNE**. Your cheque or credit card payment should be sent to The Administrator as soon as possible. We also welcome day visitors for any part of the programme and the costs for this can be obtained from Susie Kay (00353 95 43575 or email susiek@gofree.indigo.ie).

The annual gathering provides an opportunity for every member of the Society to exchange knowledge and

opinions on our favourite subject. A warm welcome awaits you at the Society's 50th birthday.

Susie Kay

New members

We welcome the following members who have joined since January.

Ivor **Lyne**, Little Sandhurst
Krzysztof **Bielicki**, Zatuski, Poland
Joan **Tusting**, Lowestoft
Leslie **Jeffries**, Plumstead
Ann **Morland**, Chesterfield
Julie **Hewitt**, Newick
Michael **Crabtree**, Bradford

Request for an Honorary Secretary

Richard Bowater, the Society's elected Honorary Secretary retired in February due to ill health and we are grateful to him for the work he did for the Society whilst in that position.

The search is now on for a new Honorary Secretary to be appointed at the 2013 AGM in Thirsk. The position entails being an Officer and a Trustee of The Heather Society. Attendance is required at Council meetings, held in London, and at AGMs normally held during the weekend of the Annual Gathering. The Hon. Secretary is elected annually. If you think you would like to take on the position then please indicate your interest to the Acting Hon. Secretary, Phil Joyner, whose contact details are on the inside back cover.

Phil Joyner
Acting Hon. Secretary

Message from the Hon. Treasurer

Since the current subscription rates were approved in 2009, the costs of running the Society have increased substantially. While significant revenue is generated from the Society's investment portfolio, that income, coupled with the membership fees, is now insufficient to meet costs. An increase in members' subscription fees from January 2014 has to be considered.

The forthcoming Council meeting will discuss these matters, balanced with evaluation of expenditure and how costs can be contained, undertaking to maintain the efficiency of the Society and service to its members.

Richard Canovan

Group News

All members are welcome to attend any of the local group events

Yorkshire Group

As there was serious snow falling in the northeast of England on 9 March, it was an even smaller gathering than usual attending the Yorkshire Group meeting at RHS Garden Harlow Carr. However we were welcomed by Catherine Baxter, Education Officer for Harlow Carr, who spoke to us about her interest in promoting heathers and heather growing.

The few members there then discussed the problems they had with both heathers and other plants in the particularly wet winter of 2012/2013, followed by the usual tea and cakes.

Although it was cold we had a walk around the garden to see the increased number of heathers which the gardeners have planted there recently, in particular the new plantings in the large bed below the bookshop. *Erica vagans* and *Erica manipuliflora* planted there in 1992 had gone past their sell-by date and a new design had been prepared. The unfortunate problem with this bed is that some of the heathers recommended for it are not available from nurseries, even though they are relatively new introductions.

It is quite a large bed situated next to an even larger bed of winter heathers, so we had chosen to put summer-flowering heathers in the one below the bookshop. However the soil here will not grow *Calluna vulgaris*, *Daboecia* or *Erica cinerea*. Which is why it had previously been planted with *Erica manipuliflora*, as a trial to see whether they would stand the cold northern winters. They did extremely well, only being cut back once by a particularly cold April night of -10°C.

At our forthcoming meeting at RHS Harlow Carr on Saturday 25 May, we intend to follow up the local RHS promotion of heathers by discussing how we can help with this topic, and

we shall look at the Heather Society website to further our ideas.

We also hope to plan a visit to a garden in late July or early August, possibly our President's new garden at Little Preston.

Jean Preston

Home Counties Group

5–9 September Wisley Flower Show

John Hall, of John Hall Plants, will have a stand at the 2013 flower show. For those members who will not be going to the Annual Gathering in Thirsk that weekend this is a good time to visit Wisley. Moreover, John is offering 10% off the price of heathers at the show. Please bring a copy of this bulletin as evidence of Heather Society membership.

Website <http://www.plantadvice.co.uk/garden-shows/the-rhs-wisley-flower-show/16>

Saturday 28 September: RHS Gardens Wisley & John Hall Plants Nursery

Meet at 10.45am outside the entrance to RHS Gardens Wisley for 11.00am tour of the National Collection of heathers.

John Hall has kindly invited Heather Society members to his nursery at Headley Down. It is about 30 minutes' drive southwest from Wisley. After lunch at Wisley, meet again at Wisley entrance at 2.00pm and we will set off for the nursery to

arrive around 2.30pm. Take A3 to Hindhead and after Hindhead Tunnel turn off onto A333 Portsmouth Road then B3002 to Headley Down, via Grayshott Road and Glayshers Hill. At T-junction turn right into Churt Road.

John Hall Plants Ltd, Whitehall Nursery, Red Lane, off Churt Road, Headley Down, Bordon, Hampshire, GU35 8SR.

Website : www.johnhallplants.com

Barry Sellers

Proposed trip to north-western Spain in 2014

It is hoped that this field-trip will take place in early July 2014. A possible programme has been mapped out and an estimate of the approximate costs has been made.

It will be guided by Dr Jaime Fagundez, a Spanish botanist. Jaime came to the Falmouth Gathering last year and gave a short talk on "The heathlands of north-western Spain". This gave an introduction to the area and the heathers it is possible to see. In the area to be visited there are a great number of European *Erica* species with a reasonable amount of summer flowering plants showing bloom.

Should you be interested in participating in this trip, we would like you to contact me by email (susiek@gofree.indigo.ie), telephone, or by letter (see details inside back cover of *Bulletin*) so that we have an idea of numbers. I can then keep you

informed on actual details as to when and how the visit will take place.

The approximate cost for 5–6 days will be £500. This will include dinner, bed & breakfast for 5 days, lunches for 4 days, coach transport and the boat to Mugardos. It does **not** include the airfares to Santiago de Compostela or the transfer to the town. There are direct flights from Stanstead and Dublin to Santiago de Compostela and from London Heathrow to A Coruna.

This is a wonderful opportunity to view a large and varied number of European heather species in their natural habitat in the company of heather friends.

Tentative schedule is as follows:

Day 1

Arrive Santiago de Compostela.
7 pm dinner and overnight at Hotel Virxe da Cerca.

Day 2

Breakfast in hotel.
Visit Santiago old town and its famous cathedral.

Lunch at the beautiful Casa Felisa garden restaurant.

Travel to Ferrol.

Arrive at Hotel El Suizo, where we will stay two nights.

Short walk in Ferrol before dinner at hotel.

Day 3

Breakfast at hotel.
Depart for Serra da Capelada, where we will visit the heathlands, sea cliffs, and San Andrés de Teixido. Lunch during the trip.

Dinner and overnight at Hotel El Suizo, Ferrol.

Day 4

Breakfast in hotel.
Visit to Ferrol, including the arsenal.
Boat to Mugardos.
Lunch in Mugardos.
Depart for Caurel.
Arrive Quiroga.
Dinner and overnight in Caurel.

Day 5

Breakfast at hotel.
Field trip to Caurel heathlands, River Sor.
Lunch during trip.
Depart for Santiago.
Farewell dinner in Santiago.
Overnight Hotel Virxe da Cerca.

Day 6

Breakfast in hotel.
Depart for home.

Susie Kay



Cherry Turpin 1923–2013

I regret to inform members of the passing away of Cherry Turpin, at the age of 89, on 6 April, 2013.

Cherry, an army officer's daughter, was the wife of the late Major-General Pat Turpin, a former Chairman and Vice-President of the Society. Cherry was a keen member, accompanying her husband at conferences and at meetings of the former Southern Group of the Society.

Those members who attended conferences and local group meetings

in the seventies, eighties and early nineties will remember Cherry as a charming and gracious lady, willing to engage with everyone around her.

During her time as a member of the Society she and Pat lived in the village of West Clandon in Surrey. Cherry lived on at their home after Pat died in 1996 until she became too frail, when she moved from her West Clandon address but remained in Surrey, until moving to Somerset, where she resided until she passed away in April.

Cherry's name lives on amongst heathers as an *Erica* × *watsonii* is named after her. The plant, found by Cherry near Truro in 1978 and originally thought to be *E. ciliaris*, was named and registered in 1981 by her husband.

Pat and Cherry had two children, Richard and Annabel, but sadly Annabel passed away in 2009, and therefore, I extend the Society's sincere condolences to Richard and his family.

Phil Joyner

Sid Brown

It is with great sadness that we tell you of the passing of Sid Brown, at the age of 79. Many of you will remember him as being the Head Gardener at Champs Hill, West Sussex.

Sid had been with the Bowerman family from April 1977, until 21 May 2013. He had been ill for a very long while, and even though he was very frail, he faithfully came to work as, and when, his illness allowed, even

coming in on the morning of the day before he died.

Sid learnt all about heathers – and to love them – alongside Alfred and Margaret Bowerman. When David and I came to live at Champs Hill, in 1986, he tried to teach me as much as he could, as well as passing on his knowledge to his two sons, Adrian and Lynn, also now working in the garden. His ability to recognize and name almost any of the 400 plus heathers here at Champs Hill, at any time of the year, was second to none. Sadly this is the end of an era, as none of us feel we have such knowledge.

It is fitting to know that Sid left us all when the garden was at its absolute height of abundance, both in colour and sheer beauty – a truly glorious homage to a man who was happy to get his hands dirty, creating a small piece on God's earth, for the hundreds of people to enjoy, who visit Champs Hill each year.

In 2004 I named one of Champ Hill's own seedling heathers after him: *Daboecia* 'Sid Brown' (reg. no. D01:2004) has mauve (H2) flowers with darker (beetroot, H9) calyx, small, fine, dark green leaves, and compact, dwarf habit).

We shall miss him deeply, and our hearts go out in sympathy, to his family.

Mary Bowerman

{There are articles on Champs Hill in *Heathers* 7 (2010).}

2013 Members' CD

Production of our very popular annual CD which every member receives with the Autumn *Bulletin* needs to be completed by the end of September. Any photographs of heathers in gardens or the wild, heather gardens or even gardens with only a sprinkling of heathers, or anything else of heathery interest, will be most welcome.

While we prefer digital photographs taken in the recent past, "archival" photographs are also welcome. As a general rule, images taken with a digital camera are adequate as long as they were taken on a "normal" setting, but please do not send them using programs that reduce the image size (Picasa, for example, does this when you use the inbuilt email facility). We can use such photographs but their quality is greatly reduced.

I am happy to advise members wanting to send photos by email about alternative methods such as WeTransfer.

Charles Nelson

2014 yearbook, *Heather* 11

The next yearbook, to be issued about February 2014, is now "open" for interesting contributions from any member. Please send your articles and photographs to the Hon. Editor before the end of October, as usual.

Charles Nelson

RHS calls on garden lovers to take part in unique climate change study

Scientists from the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and the University of Reading are asking anyone interested in gardens and gardening, whether allotment holders or those who enjoy visiting gardens, to take part in a unique survey designed to improve understanding of how climate change may affect gardens and green spaces in the future.

The information gathered will enable the RHS to gain valuable insights into gardeners' awareness and expectations of climate change, in the light of the recent bitterly cold winters, record rainfall levels, floods, and severe droughts.

The RHS believes the information gained from the survey will help UK horticulture to prepare for the challenges and opportunities of gardening in a changing climate that may include:

- managing drier soils in summer and wetter soils in winter
- maintaining historic gardens as they adapt to a changing climate
- an intensification of both native and alien pest and diseases
- changes in flowering times that affect pollinators and other wildlife
- northward shift of optimum growing conditions for some plants.
- dealing with storms and floods

Speaking about the research, RHS Acting Head of Science John David said: "In the battle to understand better the challenges and opportunities that climate change presents, the most valuable resource we have is the millions of people who care about their gardens and the green spaces around them. We therefore urge anyone who values our gardens and parks and is concerned about their long-term sustainability to take the time to complete the questionnaire* and contribute to the future of gardening in the UK."

It has been a decade since the implications of climate change on gardening has been examined in such detail, and much has changed since then. In 2002 the RHS and others contributed to the 'Gardening in the Global Greenhouse' report which drew on climate models that indicated a general warming of the UK weather. The projections at the time led to the general understanding of a future trend of increased temperatures, less frost and snow and decreased summer rainfall for the UK. It has now become apparent, based on more recent data and climate models, that the scenarios projected in that report are in need of updating, as both the nature and rate of change are significantly different.

*To complete the survey please visit:
<http://www.survey.bris.ac.uk/reading/climate3>

Connemara chit-chat Susie Kay

Most of you probably know where Connemara is in the world's geography, but just in case you do not, let me refresh your memory. Connemara is in the west of Ireland and in County Galway. It lies west of the Corrib River, which drains down from Oughterard, a small town famed for its salmon fishing, to Galway city. The northern boundary is the Killary, Ireland's only fiord, which is nine mile long. The southern and western edges are the Atlantic Ocean, and Boston in United States is the next parish.

Overall, Connemara is only about 40 miles by 30 miles. It is a landscape that has inspired poets, artists, musicians and lovers of nature throughout the centuries. Within this compact area is an amazing collection of mountains, lakes, bogs, rocky inlets and beautiful sandy beaches. For many years tourists and travellers have come to savour what all of these features have to offer. In the early days of travel there were no proper roads and public transport was non-existent. A railway line was built from Galway to Clifden, the only town in Connemara, in the nineteenth century, and various bridges were built to span the tumbling rivers. The trains stopped running years ago and now the railway line is to be re-used as a walk and cycle way, as part of moving

into the 21st century. Connemara has a very long history and I am not going to recount it here as there are many wonderful books out there explaining all you would ever want to know. Many, many people from all over the world come to visit and admire not only the scenery but also the music, the weather and whatever their particular speciality is.

We have interaction with the many visitors that come to our little bit of Connemara and always the same two questions are asked. Should the sun be shining the first is "How did you find such a lovely spot to live in?", and then if it is cold and wet "How on earth do you live here?" We reply that it is wonderful all of the time, beautiful in the sun and magnificent in the wind and rain. But I wonder if many of them appreciate a small part of what we find so wonderful, as you need to keep the eyes down on the ground to discover the botany. Throughout the year there is something to be admired and searched for. We now only walk a very small distance in the company of our dogs, but there is a great display of wild flowers to examine and try to name. Charles Nelson's book *The wild flowers of Connemara and West Mayo*, has been our invaluable guide and a rather well-thumbed book. With this vast panoply of wild flowers waiting to be admired, the seasons pass quickly.

Now we know the location of *Erica erigena*, our year starts on New Year's

Day with a gentle stroll down our boreen to the Culfin River to where there are about a dozen plants, with a few of them clinging perilously to the river bank and some only a yard from the water. It is quite amazing that they do not get washed away when the river is in flood. The *erigena* is always showing some flowers at this time of year. They are fairly compact in size and the flower colour develops through a blush to a darker pink as the season progresses.

In February we are looking for violets and primroses tucked away in sheltered crevices. Somehow nature knows how to mix her colours, as the pale mauve and creamy yellow harmonise so well. A stronger yellow emerges with the celandines, the ubiquitous dandelion and the gorse, which forms huge stands needing careful circumvention. February means spring is here, as St Bridget's Day, 1 February, is our unofficial start of the season. It is marked by the making of a St Bridget's Cross which is fashioned out of reeds and is displayed in houses to bring good luck and to keep fire from burning your house down.

As we move into March we hope to see the trees budding up and new growth on the fuchsia hedges and the grass turning from blonde to green again. I have allowed the wood sorrel with its delicate white flowers to colonize along some of my stone walls and I am very careful to leave these

plants when I cut down the brambles. Staying with the white theme, the blackthorn branches become clothed in tiny white flowers. Around here the blackthorn is considered to be sacred and is known as "the fairy bush", which must not be cut down, or all manner of ill will befall you. A few years ago, a major new road was re-routed to avoid disturbing a blackthorn.

April, being the cruellest month, can bring, in some years, the first sighting of *Daboecia*. I have one place on the roadside where I know it will produce the first bells – being south-facing and sheltered from most winds. Last year the roadside hedge-cutter came along and pruned the few plants rather dramatically and nothing has appeared yet for 2013. Over my back wall along the side of the mountain there are numerous plants of *Daboecia*, as long as the bullocks haven't trampled them. The first orchids start to appear and, as each day passes, more will have popped up. We just call them early purples, but there are several varieties.

May brings warmer weather and long hours of daylight. In the rock crevices by the sea colonies of thrift open and leave a person wondering how it is possible for this plant to grow and survive and provide such a feast for the eyes. Alongside boggy places and ditches, yellow flags are appearing, which appear to be stately above the lowly buttercups below.

If we happen to be blessed with a sunny May I would be looking for signs of *Erica cinerea* showing deep purple buds against the dark green foliage. Orchids are in profusion now with the pyramidal orchid in fairly large numbers. Sometimes we find pure white ... but there is a profusion of shades from deep purple through to blush.

Into June and we go up what is known as "the high road" to check on *Erica cinerea* 'Ted Oliver'. The bicoloured plant Ted and I found six years ago on one of his visits. I have this in my garden but strangely it is showing far more purple these days than when I first rooted cuttings.

Sunny days bring on a fluttering display of bog cotton with the silky plumes waving in the breeze. Along with this, the heads of bog asphodel provide striking colour combination, as the first *Erica tetralix* appears. As we walk, we have to be careful not to tread on all that is on offer for us to wonder at.

The leaves and immature flower stalks of *Gunnera tinctoria* are pushing up and out, as it slowly colonizes large areas of disturbed land. This plant is now a major invasive species in Connemara and large amounts of money and time have been spent in trying to eradicate it, but really to no avail. The seed that has been dispersed stays in the ground for many a long year and though glycol-phosphate is

used, it only brings a temporary respite.

I have never yet found a white *Erica cinerea* and often muse on our fondness for seeing the white form of certain heathers, but the purple is everywhere in drier places such as old walls.

With July, the major tourist season is starting and we try to walk where there are fewer people. The *Fuchsia* is well into flower and the bright orange of Montbretia (*Crocsmia*) is showing. Not such a good colour combination as primrose and violet, but a different walking route gives us an opportunity to see sea holly with its steely blue-green spiky leaves in a sand dune plus one of my favourites – grass of Parnassus showing the delicate, green-veined white flowers. My delight when I see this each year knows no bounds and I hope it will survive despite being trampled on by the cows and their calves. In this same stretch will be harebells and sheep's-bit carpeting the ground in front of us.

For August we are moving into the major *Calluna* month, as broad sweeps open into full flower. Now here again comes the hunt for the white form. It can often be identified before the flower develops as the leaves are a paler green than the pink varieties. August is also the time for the white *Erica tetralix*, it is always later than the usual pink. Possibly this is the month for major colour on bog, moor and mountain, with the stems of the bog

asphodel and the purple moor grass adding to the spectrum. Now is the time to take a trip beyond Clifden, our main town, towards Roundstone, a quaint fishing village along the bog road. The land here is real flat bog with the Bens, a major mountain range as a backdrop. The main purpose of the trip is to look at *Erica mackayana* and its progeny *Erica* × *stuartii*. Alan was given his first botany lesson along this road by the distinguished Cape Heath man, Dr E. G. H. Oliver, on how to tell the difference between the two. Peering through the loupe he was able to compare the glabrous ovaries with the slightly hairy ones. A short distance away is the famous *Erica ciliaris* site. This is no longer under protection and was badly burned three or four years ago. It recovered well, but is now grazed by sheep so we have not seen it in flower for a while.

For September I have to be away for at least a week at a certain conference and by the time I come back a distinct Autumn look is creeping in. *Erica* and *Calluna* are fading for the main part, but it is always possible to still see some fresh openings of flowers. Grasses are beginning to die back and even the blackberries in the hedgerows are almost finished.

Fuchsia and Montbretia are nearly gone, as October brings gales and rain to tell everything the time is ready for hibernation. It was this month some years ago that, with David Edge, I

found a bud-bloomer, which I named 'Connemara Colleen'. It was late in October and the plant really stood out, being so bright against the faded flowers of the surrounding *Calluna*. I have returned to the spot several times, at the right time, and have never found it again. Perhaps it was a leprechaun playing a game with me.

By November all the flowers really have gone and we are just left with the thought of what we have seen.

December once produced a huge surprise. On the shortest day when the sun had long gone from my house in the shadow of the mountain, I walked to the beach, and just above the rocks leading to the shoreline was a clump of primroses. Down on hands and knees to make sure that it wasn't that leprechaun again, but no, with the sun shining and with the gentle sound of the sea, a pale yellow posy beamed up at me.

There we are, a year gone so fast and it is almost time to don the wellies and find the *erigena* again.

P. S. There are many more plants, but I have only mentioned those that we always make a special effort to see.

Cover picture: young plants of golden *erigena* which is a seedling that Barry Sellers raised, should be available the Golden Jubilee Gathering at Thirsk. Members unable to attend may contact The Administrator for further information about its availability.

Riverside Park, Perth Sue Allen

The garden should be looking good as last year's plantings (146 cultivars) are establishing nicely on either side of a stream with cascades running down to the River Tay. The first of this year's plantings (88 cultivars) should be planted next week. Unfortunately all the areas have to be protected by rabbit-proof netting at the moment. We hope to be able to remove this once the beds are more mature. The surrounding area is attractive (and photogenic!) – a gentle west-facing slope on the east bank of the River Tay. The garden is adjacent to the historic Kinnoull graveyard where Effie Gray, the wife of the Pre-Raphaelite painter John Everett Millais, is buried, and on the opposite bank from the town centre, where it forms part of an attractive and varied linear park. The replacement of the well-known and popular Cherrybank Heather collection is a 3–4 year project which will be easily accessed by visitors and locals alike for pleasure and information, and will hopefully build on and enhance Perth's reputation as an attractive city with many fine open spaces and a history of many 'Britain in Bloom' successes.

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Front (clockwise, from top left): coloured young shoot tips of *Erica* × *oldenburgensis* 'Ammerland' at Outwell (Charles Nelson); Woburn heather parterre (David Edge); golden foliaged clone of *E. erigena* with white flowers raised by Barry Sellers (also main image to left) (Alan Kay) and *Daboecia cantabrica* 'Bicolor' (Charles Nelson) both growing at Lettergesh.

Back (clockwise, from top left) The late Cherry Turpin (see p. 5; by courtesy of Richard Turpin); The Kays' house at Lettergesh, Connemara (Charles Nelson); The replanted Knot Garden at The Bannut, May 2013 (Daphne Everett) (see inside front cover).



Contact information / If undelivered please return to



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