

Summer, 1967

We are gratified at the reception given to our first Bulletin and suggestions and articles have come pouring in. The Editor and I divide these according to their suitability for Year Book or Bulletin. So far we have promised two Bulletins yearly, in March and July. Members' Forum contributions for the Bulletins should be sent to me by Feb. 28th and June 30th. Articles for the Year Book should be sent to the Editor by August 31st.

Nomenclature A first set of notes and recommendations by the sub-committee was sent out on May 1st, to many nurserymen and horticulturists and I should like here to acknowledge with thanks the replies and comments that came in from both members and non-members. Their criticisms are being carefully considered and a further set of recommendations is being prepared.

### Dates to remember, in the South.

Lecture on Cape Heaths, "vhw yllas" or "ts"

Great Autumn Show, Sept. 19, 20, 21. Tickets available.

A few more acceptances wanted for the two invitations to Mrs. Bowerman's and Sir John Charrington's gardens. The Saturday visit to Wisley has not been well supported and may have to be cancelled. Those who have applied will be informed.

Reverting first to previous requests, we still need black and white photographs, either of individual plants, attractive heather gardens or heathers combined with other plants. Have we among our members a "photographic expert" who feels able to write a short article for the Year Book offering advice and tips for the photographing of heathers which everyone seems to agree is difficult?

One of our members WAS clever enough to devise a cross-word which will appear in due course.

There must be a number of ardent flower arrangers among our members. Can anyone write an article on this subject, slanted towards heathers; most suitable cultivars, lasting qualities, ways of arranging etc?

I have started collecting Hebe cultivars (shrubby veronicas) and hope to include an article on my (as yet limited) experience. Can anyone help with information about the cultivars they grow - habit, hardiness, flowering time etc?

And if you are thinking of writing an article, PLEASE do it now.



MEMBERS' FORUM

The Future of our Society.

From Geoffrey Yates

What do we members want? Our Society is poised at the stage when it must grow and it is up to the members to tell the Committee what they want. Heathers are on the brink of attaining great popularity with so much to offer the gardener in return for less labour than the plants now enjoying the greatest popularity.

In the Nottingham area several displays have been arranged at local functions with outstanding success and nurserymen are finding a demand for plants which many of them are unable to supply. Speaking to some of these "non-heather" nurserymen one gets the impression that they have never heard of Heathers.

Your Society is doing a great deal to increase public knowledge of the plant and its possibilities but it is more difficult to organise activities for the benefit of existing members to keep their interest. After some disappointments over lack of support I invited 24 members in the Nottingham and Sheffield areas to get together. All but three replied and most of the others came and I hope and believe, enjoyed themselves.

What does one conclude from this? Firstly, we must do something to cater for our less physically active members to give them pleasure and interest. The Bulletin is a great step in this direction.

Secondly, we must organise meetings, garden visits and get togethers without waiting for members to show interest. If you send out invitations my experience indicates that members will accept.

This brings me back to my first question: what do we members want? Write to your officers and tell them. They will welcome your ideas. Even more important, organise something yourself in your own locality. You'll find that you meet some new and very delightful people with the same interests as yourself, and that is really why you joined the Society in the first place.

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GROWING HEATHERS IN POTS. From Roger Thomas

I am sure many people, especially those with city balconies, would derive considerable pleasure from growing heathers in pots. I managed to persuade our local library to buy "The English Heather Garden" (D.F.Maxwell & P.S.Patrick) and was interested to read that growing heathers in pots has long been practised and it might be helpful to some members to quote from my experience.

My heathers have been doing quite well and only one has succumbed. Now that I have a garden of my own, I have planted out my cuttings and plan to keep the parent plants in pots only until I find time to take some more cuttings when I shall plant them out and layer them. My success has certainly served to whet my appetite and made me eager to continue in a bigger way. Their structure is delicate and repays the closer examination which can be given when they are free to be handled at close range. One can also ring the changes in the arrangement and experiment with different colour combinations. It is also very convenient to be able to take a couple of pots indoors when it gets dark and take some cuttings while sitting comfortably at the kitchen table or watching television.

I have found that for me the carneas and the Cornish Heath (*E.vagans*) have without exception made the strongest growth. *E.ciliaris* (especially) and *E.Tetralix* have been a little slow. Though I tried to water every day, I have not always succeeded and sometimes did not bother when it rained. I am sure that this was a mistake and a daily soaking is essential, otherwise the peat tends to contract from the edges making much of the subsequent watering inadequate. Of my Callunas, Multicolor made good growth and from a small specimen has nearly reached the circumference of a five inch pot. The *Daboecia* also does quite well.



I gave them a pinch of nitrogen once in six months or so when I remembered.  
The carneas especially I am sure would make excellent window-box subjects, air pollution permitting.

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My Experience in Propagation. From K.E. Wright, April, 1967

Having recently completed the potting of some 3000 young heathers taken as cuttings during July and August last year, here are a few jottings from my notebook.

The cuttings have been grown in standard wooden seed trays placed in a cold frame, watered regularly and shaded when the occasion required it. This has been their home until potting commenced in March.

In the main, the compost used was a mixture of coarse Bedfordshire sand and moss peat in more or less equal quantities. In some instances loam was added and fine grade sand used in others. Better results were obtained with the main mixture.

A small number of various types were taken during late June which have not proved very satisfactory. This suggests that July/August cuttings are better. In all cases *E. cinerea* varieties were found difficult and although many have rooted, growth appears slow and feeble.

Unfortunately worms gained access to the boxes of cuttings via the base of the cold frame, many of the cuttings being pushed out of the compost before they had chance to make any holding root. The worms were found difficult to eradicate despite several waterings with permanganate of potash.

Watering and shading I believe go hand in hand. If too heavily shaded and kept too moist algae formed on the surface of the compost. Light shading with green polythene was found better than hessian.

Except during periods of extreme high temperature the frame was kept closed down until late in September. The lights were then raised on 2" blocks at each corner. This allowed free ventilation over the cuttings. The lights remained in this position throughout the winter except during hard continued frost. Very little water was required after about mid-October. From the beginning of February all cuttings were given fortnightly feeds of Maxicrop plus iron.

On the whole a good 90% strike has been effected. Most of these are well rooted and growing along quite happily in 3½" polythene pots. Besides experimenting this year with March cuttings of *E. carnea* varieties, I propose trying out the effect of using liquid feeds from the cutting stage, with a neutral compost of vermiculite and sand in small

individual pots which should give some indication of root growth and the effect of the feed on rooting.

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THE VISIT TO HARLOW CAR.

From J. P. A.

Midland and Northern members met together at the Northern Horticultural Society's Garden at Harlow Car near Harrogate on 30th April, 1967. It was a most informal and friendly gathering of over 50 Heather enthusiasts and included our President from the Isle of Man and Miss Polak Daniels from Holland. Other members travelled from Northumberland, Lancashire, Cheshire, Nottinghamshire and Worcester.

After inspecting these famous gardens in the morning, there was an informal conference in the afternoon when our widely scattered membership made light of this handicap and in fact resolved to repeat the visit on 9th July.

The primary object of our meeting was to collaborate with the N.H.S. in the project to extend the scope of the Heather Garden at Harlow Car which is being developed by Mr. Geoffrey Smith, Superintendent of the Garden (who is a member of the Heather Society),



backed by the resolve of Mr. A. Sigston Thompson, Director of the Gardens and his Committee.

Our members are contributing plants and cuttings, a generous lead in this being given by Mr. Yates (50 varieties), Mr. Le ver (25 varieties) and others offered by our President Mr. F.J. Chapple and our Chairman Sir John Charrington, who also sent a letter of support and commendation of the enterprise. Chain-letter circulars seeking plants and cuttings are now passing from member to member to indicate the many sorts still required to attain the object of providing a really comprehensive collection. We shall be pleased to receive offers from any of the Society's members who would like to support this undertaking. And for growers introducing new varieties, here is an opportunity to show the public the merits of plants in a setting visited by thousands throughout the year.

This is a long term undertaking and we hope to have more details of progress for the Year Book. Meanwhile, it is most rewarding to find that our Membership is not merely a list of names but a band of enthusiasts happy to travel far to share a mutual interest.

From Mr. Harold W. Copeland, Chatham, Mass. U.S.A. to Mr. P.S. Patrick.  
February, 1967

My wife and I never derived more downright satisfaction and pleasure and wonder than we have from Callunus and Ericas. They are a joy every month in the year. As I write the Erica carnea are a mass of colour, never so magnificent as against the snow from which the blooms so miraculously appear. And the foliage varieties ' '. We have most of them, but in our affection E. cinerea 'Golden Drop' takes first place. C. vulg. 'Spitfire' is so fiery red one almost expects to see the surrounding snow melt from the generated heat!

May 1967

With the 40 more cultivars we are setting out today, our total is now about 225 and I expect cuttings of another 80 cultivars this summer. Our collection here is now the largest in the States. We watch the plants carefully and for the sake of nurserymen I am compiling a list of those which are entirely too close in form and color to warrant propagation. Especially do I find this true in the carneas and cinereas, though the factor holds true to some extent with others.

Notes and Comments From letters to the Secretary.

Mr. C.F. Martin of Tunbridge Wells is very keen that a car badge for Heather Society member should be available. This was put before the A.G.M. members but I promised to give it wider publicity. Mr. Martin would design the badge himself. If you think it a good idea, please write direct to him. Address in Year Book.

Miss F.H. Laugher has asked if a list of gardens where heathers can be seen can be drawn up. It would help if members can give us the names of such gardens, together with times of opening, entry fee etc. If prompt replies are received by either the Editor or me, the list can go into the 1967 Year Book.

Also, our method of "starring" in the Membership Lists owners of gardens which they are willing to show to visiting members, after due notice, needs to be expanded and overhauled. Please let me know. Also, please, a note to me from nurserymen members who wish to be noted or prefer to be private members.

One reply came regarding the name 'Alportii' in the last Bulletin, from Mr. A.W. Umpelby of Devon. He suggested that it might have come from a small hamlet near Bakewell, Derbyshire. This will be fully dealt with in the Year Book.

C.I. MacLeod, Secretary.

Yew Trees, Horley Row, Horley, Surrey



THE HEATHER SOCIETY. MEMBERSHIP LISTS

New Members. Feb. 21 - June 28, 1967

- Andrews, Miss E.L.B., Hullstown, Derriaghy, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, N.I.  
Arregghini dr Ing Antonio, via Cernaia, 9, Milano, Italy.  
Ball, W.R., 97, Lambley Lane, Burton Joyce, Nottingham.  
Bigg, P.H., 56, Ormond Ave., Hampton, Middx.  
Bolt, H.W., Kyrenia Cottage, 36, Sheephouse, Farnham, Surrey.  
Bowen, A.E., 3, Church Rd., Pulloxhill, Bedford.  
Buckley, R.M., Woodlands, Greenhill Rd., Otford, Kent.  
Carson, T.A., Uisce Ban, Bailly, Co.Dublin, Eire.  
Chester, H.H., Firdene, Three Crosses, Swansea, Wales.  
Clayton, O.J., 8, Chittenden Cotts., Wisley, Ripley, Woking, Surrey  
Crampton, E., Whitehead, Co. Antrim, N.Ireland.  
Croad, Miss Z., Greencroft Cottage, Hartley Mauditt, Alton, Hants.  
Daniels Mej., Cath Polak, Neuhuyskade 28, 'Gravenhage, Holland  
Davey, N.S., 3, Green Walk, Timperley, Cheshire.  
Davies, J.Gwyn, Midland Wallboards Ltd., 100, Saint Vincent St., Birmingham, 16  
Douglas, J.B., 3 Bel-Air Ave., Ballybarnes, Co.Down, N.1.  
Edwards, Mrs.M., Ashlands, Stoneleigh Road, Gibbet Hill, Coventry, Warwicks.  
Flavin, P.P., H.Q., N.Ireland Command, Lisburn, Co.Antrim.  
Fletcher, W.A., 531, Whitworth Road, Rochdale, Lancs.  
Freeman, D.A., The Old House, Princes Risborough, Bucks.  
Gant, Mrs. A., 243, Felsham Road, Putney, London S.W.15  
Gilbert, Miss E.M., Hollinhurst, Elm Avenue, Lenzie, Nr. Glasgow.  
Giles, J.C., 21, Chilton Grove, Yeovil, Som.  
Hardwick, R.E., The Nurseries, Newick, Sussex.  
Howes, Mrs. V., Green How, Folgate Lane, Old Costessy, Norwich  
Kane Bros., Drumeel, Castlewellan, Co.Down, N.Ireland.  
Lovesey, W.R., Horticultural Organiser, Ravenslaw Hortic.Centre, Alnwick, Northumberland.  
Morgenroth, Mrs. W.J., Greensands, Primrose Way, Bramley, Guildford, Surrey  
Mowat, J.G., Braemore, Bourtree Brae, Lower Largo, Fife, Scotland.  
Newton, A.B., 58, Cole Bank Rd., Hall Green, Birmingham, 28.  
Owen, Mrs. R., The White Cottage, Roughway, Tonbridge, Kent  
Paish, S.M., 91, Longleaze Estate, Wootton Bassett, Nr. Swindon, Wilts.  
Perkin, J.M., Roseacres, Barrow Lane, Hale, Cheshire  
Public Library, South Africa, c/o Paul Koston, Bookseller, 42, Newman St., W.1.  
Sims, Mrs. E.K., 4, Haven Close, Lower Willington, Eastbourne, Sx.  
Smith, E.W., 96a, Camberwell Grove, London S.E.5  
Smith, Rev. S., 15, Wyedale, Whitby, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire.  
Stanley, P.J., 20, Corbridge Rd., Sutton Coldfield, Warwicks.  
Stevens, J., 18, Priory Ave., Harlow, Essex.  
Swaffield, Mrs. D., Furze Close, Wootton Rough, Nr. New Milton, Hants.  
Tudor, Mrs. J., 3, Benches Lane, Chisworth, via Hyde, Cheshire  
Turpin, Geo., 25, Birkett Drive, Ulverston, Lancs.  
Turner, A.S., 167, Cole Valley Rd., Birmingham 28. (Rejoined)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- Jakeways, Dr. R.J., 7, Wordsworth Ave., Penistone, Nr. Sheffield.  
Kleinschmidt-Boerstra, Mr. & Mrs. P.G., Daansbergen 18, Halsteren, Holland  
Moxon, Mrs. M.F., Winterton Farm, Warings Green, Hockley Heath, Solihull.  
Thomas, R.J., The Old Vicarage, St.Erth, Hayle, Cornwall.