

From the Secretary

Writing as I am soon after our late summer activities here in Southern England, I would like first to thank our hostess, Mrs. Ronald Gray, for another delightful visit to Southcote, Hindhead. After a gloomy summer with constant rain, it was like a gift from the gods to have a brilliantly hot afternoon when the fifty guests after wandering about happily among the heathers were able to sit about, equally happily, on the terrace for tea. Among the guests was Mr. Hale of Haslemere and to round off a perfect afternoon thirty-five of us went to see his garden, "Ashgarth." Politeness prevents my stating his age, but I may safely say that my kind escort, not knowing Mr. Hale, was looking in vain for "the old gentleman" who did all this garden on his own. "The finest small heather garden I have seen", as one nurseryman described it to me, and if ever a heather garden deserved this praise, Mr. Hale's did.

A week later we went to Mrs. Ernest Kleinwort's garden, "Heaselands" at Haywards Heath. The weather was less kind and colour was consequently lacking under grey skies, but the garden is beautifully laid out with big beds of heather playing their part. The 'natural' garden at this time of the year showed charming drifts of wild Calluna. We were told that in May bluebells take over and that we ought to visit it then for the sake of the rhododendrons and azaleas and again in July for the roses when the garden is open five times to the public. We as heather lovers chose what some might call the "off period" and were most happy to do so and we thank Mrs. Kleinwort for allowing us to see it in private.

Less than a week later we put on our annual Display at the R.H.S. New Hall and, as always, it attracted great attention. This time we won a Silver Lindley medal which is a tribute to special cultural or scientific merit. Perhaps this was because two new cultivars of E. ciliaris (a somewhat neglected species) were on show: E. cil. 'David McClintock', a bi-color found by its namesake in France, and E. cil. 'Corfe Castle' found by George Osmond and identical in shade with E. yagans. 'Mrs. D.F. Maxwell'. A really lovely plant. Our stand was manned for the whole of the two days' show and this was only possible because of my very willing team of helpers. Their enthusiasm was infectious, and four new members joined then and there. The day after, I had a letter from another, saying that as a result of two delightful conversations at the stand, she was deserting the ----- Society and joining us!

With the late summer display such a success we feel that the time has come when we should put on a spring show of carneas and other Winter-flowering heaths. We think that if it were timed for the R.H.S. Heath competitions which are held in March, members would support the latter while coming to enjoy our own display. May I hope for just as much help from members in manning the stand? I hope to be able to give more information in the Spring 1969 Bulletin.

We have also accepted an invitation from the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies to stage a small island display of Bell Heathers on the platform at the R.H.S. New Hall on July 8-9, 1969.

You will remember that the Year Book now comes out in March at the end of our Financial Year, and the A.G.M. will be held in May when the better weather may bring a better attendance.

(Continued)

If you enjoy these bulletins, please play your part by sending in comments, suggestions, yes and criticisms and of course, your own articles for publication.

C.I. MacLeod, Yew Trees, Horley Row, Horley, Surrey

NOMENCLATURE

It seemed urgent to the Sub-Committee to take steps to establish the correct name for a double-flowered Calluna found between 1953 and 1955 by Miss H.M. Appleby of Presteigne, Radnor.

We sent out 50 circulars to firms and others and as a result we learnt that seven nurserymen were calling this plant 'Miss Appleby' and four 'Radnor'.

But the number of nurserymen who happen to be using such a name is of no importance in this connection: what matters is when one or other of these names first appeared in printed or similarly duplicated matter distributed to the public and clearly dated, at least as to the year.

Although this variety was being sold by George Hamer of Sunnymount Nurseries by 1964 as 'Miss Appleby', he did not put the name into print. It seems that it so happens that the first time either name actually appeared, published as the International Code of Nomenclature demands, was in a Newsletter from Ness Gardens dated September 1966, when the name used was 'Radnor'.

What we now need to discover is whether anybody used either name in print before September 1966. Only thus can a decision be taken which of the two names should prevail.

Obviously, and regretfully, in the interests of uniformity and clarity, as well as in conformation with the International Code, one or other set of nurserymen ought to alter the name they have been using. It is fortunate therefore that the Committee has become aware of this duplication relatively quickly after the introduction of the plant. The decision which name prevails depends entirely on this matter of which name first appeared in print. Consequently we ask any member who knows of any printed evidence of an earlier date than September 1966, to be good enough to let us know as soon as they receive this bulletin.

MEMBERS' FORUM

Report from Groups 3, 4 & 5

The meeting at Ness on 7th July brought together members from Wales, Cheshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire and Mr. Chapple from the Isle of Man. We were indebted to Mr. P.L. Cunnington who was our well informed host, for his conducted tour of the Heather Garden and of the propagation and nursery sections. It was a most enjoyable gathering, heightened on this occasion by good weather.

We were impressed by a group of Tree Heaths - *Arborea Alpina*, *Australis* and others, growing under the shade of Birch trees. Judging from the amount of (then faded) flowers, it would appear that these subjects tolerate a degree of deciduous shade, which calls for future investigation.

On 15th September, the meeting at Harlow Car was attended by members from the above areas and also from Cumberland, Westmorland and Warwickshire, giving further evidence of the widespread appeal which our project has sustained.

A sale of most excellent heathers (a surprise gift by Dr. W. A. W. Small of Middlesbrough) found ready buyers and realized £7. 2.6d to augment our purchasing fund. After a short discussion we went out into the sunshine with Mr. Vickerton who has been responsible for the propagation of our cuttings. In this he has been most successful, many

varieties are now lined out in the nursery and others are in the potting-on stage.

But the feature which aroused most attention was that, latterly, cuttings had been rooted in about three weeks in a compost of equal parts of peat and powdered pumice in quite a fine powder - not noticeably sharp to the touch. This speedy rooting had given batches of first rate plants which were obviously thriving. With such evidence before us we discussed whether a break through had been found in a medium both certain and speedy. We shall be pleased to have reports from any members who care to try this simple medium.

Finally, may we refer you to the residual list of varieties we are seeking (see back page).

J.P.A. Sheffield.

WHO FIRST SAID "WHITE HEATHER IS LUCKY?"

Alice M. Coats in her book of delightful reading: "Garden Shrubs and their Histories" goes back to royal occasions; one when white heather formed part of the bridesmaids' head-dresses at the wedding of Prince Leopold in 1882, and the other when Victoria's youngest daughter, Princess Beatrice, was married three years later. A special party of Highlanders travelled to Osborne from Balmoral with a bouquet including this flower.

The origin of the phrase 'lucky white heather' has never been traced. Royalty have set the ball rolling in fashion and in other ways and the 'lucky white' may have come after the weddings mentioned above.

I could relate a number of incidents and stories about this flower, but not one would give a clue as to who first said: 'this is Lucky White Heather.'

The Scottish White Heather Farm at Toward, Dunoon has established a world trade in selling sprays of this plant and they cultivate for this business none other than the small-flowered 'alba' to satisfy their customers.

'Alba' is recognised and generally accepted as the true Scottish white heather, but how it came to be 'lucky' is beyond tradition of the clan.

F.J.C.

SELF FERTILITY OF HEATHS.

In Bulletin No. 3 I asked whether any, or all, of our heathers were self-fertile, with special reference to the *E. x darleyensis*.

At the end of June Mr. R. Measham of Exmouth wrote to tell me of a heather which he had found as a seedling from *E. mediterranea* 'Brightness' in 1950. When in due course it flowered from early November to March, he suspected he had a form of *E. x darleyensis*, and this was confirmed by Wisley. He searched this plant for seed and eventually found some which was apparently good. He kindly sent it to me, but, with my usual clumsiness, I failed to germinate it: he himself did not sow any. This however was a most welcome observation, for records of fertile *E. x darleyensis* are extremely rare - which does not necessarily mean its existence is rare. I hope that if Mr. Measham finds seed next year, it may reach more competent hands.

David McClintock

THE SLIDE LIBRARY

Recent references to the Slide Library and myself as the new Librarian make it desirable that members should be "put in the picture" about it - the more so as I am going to need much help from members.

When it was handed over to me, one of the terms of the remit was that 'the Library should be of a high standard worthy of the Society' - a condition easier to specify than to achieve as I think every photographer knows.

With my wife's help, two sessions totalling $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours were devoted to classifying the slides into Acceptable, Possible and Impossible. These were gone through by Mr. Ardron and myself and have been reviewed again. The original collection of some 180 slides became 53 and has since been built up to 90 - all of which have been remounted between glass covers.

Colour photography demands a much closer adherence to the optimum exposure time than does black and white. (For transparencies, if in doubt, it is better to under-expose by half a stop than to over-expose by a similar amount.) A number of otherwise good photographs had to be rejected, with regret, because of wrong exposures - usually over-exposed - and the effect that this had had on the colours. A few were rejected for poor focussing at nearer distances but by far the greatest cause of rejection was the use of copies (duplicates).

The colours in duplicates are not precisely the same as those in the original though they are quite satisfactory for most purposes provided the exposure used when taking the original was virtually "spot on". Since photographic firms appear to correct to some extent any departure from correct exposure to produce a slide of the right density for showing, such correction results in a further departure from the colours of the original. Some of the duplicates had heather colours which were quite startling.

I therefore beseech members, if they take a photograph which they think may be of use to the Society, to take two at the time. Not only will the colours be better but a duplicate costs three times as much as the original.

Since taking over the Library, I have had four applications for slides. One was for a single slide for an illustration, but though three were sent none proved suitable. A second was for a member giving a talk to the Cambridge Gardening Club. The third was for the loan of 100 slides to a member in North Germany for three months for talks to Groups, there. This had to be cut to six weeks and even so, forced me to refuse a request from Mrs. P. Harper, a Committee member for several years and Editor of the 1965 & 1966 Year Books and now in the U.S.A. Her request date unfortunately fell within the confirmed booking to Germany.

It seems to me only reasonable that a member, wishing to use the Slide Library to help illustrate a talk, should have them for at least a week beforehand so that he can go through them and select his material, (or alter his talk to suit the slides.) Taking into account posting time, a one evening talk means that the slides are "booked" for a fortnight as a minimum.

To avoid the possibility of disappointment, will members thinking of giving a talk, please write to me in ample time, before committing themselves, to find out if the proposed date is a suitably "free" one.

H. C. Prew. Northwich.

HEATHERS IN POTS

For many years I have encouraged the growing of hardy heathers in pots, or pans, bringing them to flower in a cold glasshouse, conservatory or frame. I have no glasshouse now, not even a garden, so cannot practice what I preach, but remembering what a lot of pleasure I had from it in the past the following suggestions may be a help to others. In Bulletin No. 2. Mr. Roger Thomas wrote of his experiences in pot work, giving some helpful hints.

Hardy heathers do not need the protection of glass, as members of this Society know full well, but when the purpose is to flower them in pots or pans it is much more convenient to have a glasshouse to cover them and a bench, preferably at waist height, to put them on.

When I had a cold house I used it from early November to late April for heathers and a few alpines, then cleared the pots out to a plunge bed (after clipping and shaping the plants) where they made new growth and formed flower buds. I had only winter and spring cultivars under glass, preferring to have summer and autumn kinds in the garden. Where there is no garden ground, as in a city, there are many glasshouses on balconies and roof gardens where heathers are flowered the year round, and much appreciated they are. I know one such, six stories up above a busy London street within a cricket-ball throw of Oxford Street.

The heather cuttings had to have a fine spray over them morning and evening. With the lights closed by 5 o'clock the humid atmosphere suited them well. Light shading is necessary for the cuttings and I found newspapers laid over the tops of the boxes sufficient. Strong staging is necessary, whether fixed or movable, as the pots of heather should stand on stone chippings (a depth of four inches is ideal) and the total weight is considerable.

If the plunge bed is on ground level any open space can be used; if the soil is not light enough for plunging it may be advisable to dig out to a depth of 8-10 inches and fill with fine weathered ashes. Ideally it is nice to have the bed within a concrete or brick wall, even built up to waist level. Besides plants of flowering size, young replacement stock can go into the beds, and with coloured foliage varieties increasing in number so rapidly some of these should be in the house at all seasons, though they might have to be taken out of doors at frequent intervals to colour them up again. It is advisable to grow enough young stock to maintain a sequence because pot cultivated plants have a shorter life than those in the garden.

Plants raised from cuttings are best and can be planted in one's or three's according to the size of the container and the potential size of the variety. Deep pans of 6-8 inches, or 6-8 inch pots are suitable.

If sphagnum moss is available an inch of pressed moss (to help retain moisture) over a thin layer of crocks, filling the pot/pan with suitable heather soil, is all that is necessary.

Tree heaths are not suitable for the heather house and only the small varieties of E. hibernica. With all other species I suggest it is a case of trial and error to see which likes you.

After flowering plants will need pruning and shaping before going to the plunge bed. Plants of E. carnea do not need much pruning but the 'Springwoods' may have to be restricted in the space they cover. In the house the plants should be kept reasonably moist; the chippings on which they stand and the path through the house should be watered daily.

Adjustable light blinds are a help when sunlight is very strong, as too much sun beating through the glass will soon cause the flowers to fade. On the other hand, too much shade will pale the flowers.

A heather house is not a 'must' but it can give an immense amount of pleasure.
P. S. Patrick, Hassocks, Sussex.

MINE ENEMY

The very nice people of the Heather Society write such charming articles that my excuse for one full of vicious hate (though not written by the black sheep of the family) is that the others shall be the more attractive by contrast.

My life, like so many, had been spent in the commuter belt of towns until I moved to my present home in the mountains of Western Cumberland, where Calluna, E. cinerea and E. Tetralix really are at home. When the opportunity arose, I bought an acre of rough mountain side. Alas, there was no heather, only a daunting mass of scrub and bracken in the crevices of the rocks. I concentrated on an area of 50 yards square.

With a heavy mattock I attacked the wilderness, following up with fire and paraquat until by the end of last summer, Shakespeare's setting for the three witches in "Macbeth" was complete. It was time to join your select circle and to write for the heather nurserymen's catalogues.

My selection was varied and reasonably wise. There was not much soil but it was surely ideal, and some 300 little plants were put in with loving care at the end of October.

Gales and heavy rain persisted until the end of the year to be followed by gales of freezing dry wind. My poor little pets looked a bit sick, but I was confident that they would survive as their relations in the hills had always done.

Then one horrible morning when we looked out the enemy was attacking. Half a dozen of those charming creatures, so beloved of the writers of guide books and mountaineers, scruffy little mountain sheep. Barbed wire barricades were hastily erected, farmers were told, police were told, but no sooner was one company routed than a full battalion attacked from another quarter.

I asked one farmer if my netting and barbed wire, modified as my experience so dearly gained increased, was proof against sheep.

'Take my word for it, that would keep out elephants', he assured me.

It was some time before I appreciated that sheep can squeeze under netting on the uneven ground that would be impractical for the slimmest elephant.

Exasperation increased. They were coming from fields where the uncropped grass was nearly as tall as they were to eat my tiny precious heather. Eventually, on the reasoning that one is permitted to take necessary measures to protect one's property, I told the police and the farmers that I was going to shoot them. The police were horrified and tried to reason with me but failed to suggest any alternative. They broke in again. Two policemen, four farmers and three dogs were on the spot almost before I could get back to the field.

The classic answer by the police when one is in such trouble is, catch a sheep, take it back to the farmer and he will take more care of them. First catch a sheep! Apart from their having twice as many legs, an obvious advantage, I have seen one climb a well-built 6ft. stone wall with no trouble at all.

When there was time, I took stock. Callunas are obviously the most tasty, especially 'Alportii'. Of forty young plants all were eaten to the ground, wood and all. 'Alba plena' was less popular and had merely been hard pruned with the other Callunas somewhere in between. The Daboecias lost all their new growth and this quite likely did them good as here they tend to be over ebullient. My carneas and hybrids were just dragged out of the ground and left to die and my one and only Arborea 'alpina' nipped off cleanly at ground level and just left. The cinereas just seemed to irritate them, tips being bitten off, pieces split and some uprooted. The Golden Drops were all killed but of the rest I have lost just a few of each.

Now I look at the mountains and no longer wonder why year by year the heather gets less and less and the all-smothering bracken more and more.

Is there perhaps some delectable weed that they cannot resist and that would send them into delightful dreams for evermore? The opium poppy which grows quite well but not in Cumberland in January, February and March which is when they attack.

Perhaps some zoo would lend me a nice hungry pack of wolves before next winter.
D.A. Richards, Holmrook, Cumberland.

FROM YOUR LETTERS

Mr. L.A. Knight, Eynhallow, Haverfordwest, Pembs writes on July 22nd

'Having just returned from three weeks in Ireland and having covered much the same ground as you and fellow members covered, I would like to confirm your most interesting comments and maybe add a little to your finds.

1. Oughterard District. One mile from the Corrib Hotel on the Costello road there is a turning to the right. Half a mile along this there is a small disused quarry where Daboecia grows prolifically. As well as the usual purple flowered plants there was a very good pink form. The moor between the road and the Owen Riff river is well worth exploring as I found scores

of a very good form of Tetralix whose flowers were of a deep clear pink and the foliage was greener than the usual grey of Tetralix.

- My wife and I located the site where Mackaiana grows, so well described and pinpointed by Mr. P.P. Flavin. It grows between Toombeola and Ballinaboy Bridge but the locals did not know of Lough Nabrackmore (not even the fishermen). But they recognised it when I said Craiggamore !

.....

Mr. Geoffrey Smith, Harlow Car, Harrogate.

'Thank you for your letter of July 11th. It really is a nuisance on top of the fire and compost trouble to have the garden really flayed by hailstones. One of the biggest problems are the labels. The hailstones broke the 'Gravo' plastic even. So far we have replaced or repaired 2,400.

Still, we have the soil left and can always re-plant. I hope this is the last torment for this year.'

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Mr. F.J. Chapple writes:

'Where members see good displays of Heather at local shows, please let us know the name of the Society, town or village, for insertion in the Bulletin.'

.....

Mr. J.P. Ardron writes:

'Please add a star to the names Prew, H. C. & Richards D. A., in the next Year Book, they being willing to receive visitors to their gardens. Indeed both Mr. Chapple and I myself have always been welcomed when we have visited members - star or no star.'

(Mr. B.G. London finds the same. He carries his copy of the Year Book in his hand and approaches confidently. He has never been rebuffed.)

not in my letter.

HARLOW CAR PROJECT

Both plants and cutting materials have been coming in as a result of the 'required list' enclosed with the last Year Book. If members will please mark off the following as being already obtained, it will bring the list up-to-date and, we hope, bring to your notice some varieties which you are able to give to support this undertaking. If further copies of the list are required, please apply.

Meanwhile, our thanks to the donors of :-

CALLUNA	CILIARIS	DABOECIA
Alba Elata	Wych	Hookstone Purple
Dainty Bess	HYBRIDS	Pink
Goldsworth Crimson variegata	E x darl: Ghost Hills	
hirsuta typica	:: James Smith	
X Hypnoides	TETRALIX	
X Loch-na-seil	Darleyensis	
Penhale	Pink Glow	
Darkness	Rubra	
CARNEA	VAGANS	
Mrs. Sam Doncaster	Carnea	
Sherwoodi	Hookstone Rosea	
Thomas Kingscote	Lilacina	
CINEREA		
Carnea	Rosabella	We have also received 12 new
Mulfra	Schizopetala	varieties for comparative proving.
Plummers var:		

X Will the donor of these two Callunas please advise his name?

SUPPLEMENTARY MEMBERSHIP LIST: April 1st - Sept. 20th, 1968

NEW MEMBERS:

- Addison, C.F.H., Earncroft, Foxbury Rd., Grange Estate, St. Leonards, Ringwood, Hants.
Alger, Miss V., Inney Ward, St. Lawrence's Hospital, Bodmin, Cornwall
Anderson, J.D., 51, Wallasey Park, Belfast BT14 6PN, N. Ireland
Atkins, C.H. Ridge View, 65, a, Saunders Lane, Mayford, Woking, Sy.
Brown, E.C. 52, Gatehill Rd., Northwood, Middx.
Brummage, N.H. Heathwoods Nursery, Fakenham Rd., Taverham, Norwich. Nor53X
Carter, R.F. Janton Cottage, 3, Green Lane, Amersham on the Hill, Bucks.
Clayton, B.V. Avocet, 102, Vicarage Lane, Great Baddow, Chelmsford, Essex.
Coope, Dr.M. 66, Grimshaw Lane, Bollington, Cheshire
Cooper, J.G. Corrie, Dinting Rd., Glossop, Derbyshire ^{Y3X}
Day, Mrs.M. Littlefields, Maresfield Park, Uckfield, Sx.
Fabrizi Filippo Triaca, via Degli Olivetani 8, Milano, Italy.
Farrow, Mrs.G.M. 28, St. Ives Park, Ringwood, Hants
Freeman, G.W. Lavender Walk, Moat Lane, Sedlescombe, Sussx.
Goller, A.E. 2, Palmers Road, Borehamwood, Herts.
Haigh, Mrs.M. Coed Berw, Pentre Berw, Gaerwen, Anglesey
Hargreaves, Brig. K., Castle Garth, Wetherby, Yorks. ^{YB}
Haskell, Mrs. A.J. Russetts, The Cut, Findon, Worthing, Sx.
Herdman, Mrs. B.M. The Brae, Sion Mills, Co. Tyrone, N. Ireland
Hulme, J.K., Director, University of Liverpool Botanic Garden, Ness, Neston, Wirral, Ches.
Isaac, J.R. Manor Farmhouse Nursery, East Lane, West Horsley, Leatherhead, Surrey.
Lewis, R.J. 22, Manor Drive, Whetstone, London N.20
Lyon-Williams, I., c/o The Midland Bank, Gosforth, Seascale, Cumbs. ^{YB}
Medlam, A.J., 18, Moxhull Drive, Walmley, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire
Milsted, Revd. Ivan S., The Manse, 1, Millwood Rd., Hounslow, Middx.
Munro, L.A. Merchants Field, Thurlestone, Devon.
Noltingk A.G., Marianne, Semley Road, Hassocks, Sx.
O'Hare, P.J. The Agricultural Institute, Glenamoy, Co. Mayo, Eire
Parris, Mrs. A.S. Spring Cottage, Penyaemawr, Usk, Mon. NP5 1LU
Quayle, S.K. Loen, Bewdley, Worcs.
Scott-Russell, Professor C. 6, Cavendish Road, Sheffield. 11. ^{YB}
Seggie, T.P. 98, Cannon Park Road, Coventry
Simpson, L.I. Leyswood House, Groombridge, via. Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
Smith, Mrs.P. Nellacre, Birstwith, Harrogate, Yorks.
Sterling Manson, C. La Lodola, Seale Hill, Reigate, Surrey
Strachan, Mrs.M.E. Little Gables, Manor Lane, Gerrards Cross, Bucks.
Strathcona, Lord. 20, Lansdown Crescent, Bath (62182) Som.
Strover, Mrs. E.D., High Wray, Lodge Hill Road, Farnham, Surrey.
Swift, F.B. 35, Hitchen Hatch Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent.
Tickle, A.C., 32, Withyham Road, Cooden, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sx.
Tuck, Mrs. D.M. Boarshurst, Greenfield, nr. Oldham, Lancs.
Turner, G. 27, Hartwood Green, Hartwood Park, Chorley, Lancs.
Ward, D. Wards Nurseries, Eckington Rd., Coal Aston, Nr. Sheffield ^{YB}
Whitworth, F. The Manor House, Curry Mallet, Taunton, Som.
Wiseman, H.R. The Spinney, Highfield Drive, Broxbourne, Herts.

Change of Address

- Daniel, F. Flete, Ermington, Ivybridge, Devon.
Harper, Mrs.P. R.F.D. No.7, Box 556, Ledyard, Conn. 06339, U.S.A.
Patrick, P.S. 11, Clevelands, Lodge Lane, Hassocks, Sx.