

Membership Secretary: Mrs. MacLeod,  
Yew Trees, Horley, Surrey RH6 8DF

From the Editor of the Year Book

Top of the Pops

Mr. Alan Umpelby of Newton Abbot, writing to Mrs. MacLeod earlier this year, suggested that a popularity poll of heathers be published in the next edition of the Year Book.

This I will be more than delighted to do. Please write to me, listing your three favourite cultivars, and if you like adding the reasons for your selections. The result of this popularity poll will be all the more interesting as the Technical Committee are planning to produce a publication next year outlining the results of the Harlow Car trials, so some interesting comparisons can be made.

Your letters or postcards to me please:

Mr. A. J. Stow, 15 Highlands, Flackwell Heath, Bucks, HP10 9PP

May I through this Bulletin make an appeal for editorial help with the Year Book. Will any member who would like to offer some assistance, either in the form of ideas, typing or proof reading, please write to me at the above address.

The bulk of Year Book work occurs during the period September through to the beginning of December with the proof reading taking place on a couple of days during January and February.

A. J. S.

An additional note by the Membership Secretary:

A vital point is that contributions for the Year Book must reach the Editor NOT LATER THAN NOVEMBER 30th

For my part, if any more members wish to put forward their names for welcoming visitors to their gardens, please send them to me as soon as possible after you receive this bulletin. I leave for another visit to my "homeland" Natal on December 8th. to spend Christmas away. So I take this opportunity to wish you all, a rather early greeting, a happy Christmas, especially to those who despite the awful postal charges, might have thought of sending me cards which I shall not be here to receive.

C. I. M.

From the Treasurer:

Subscriptions

The Society has been successful so far in holding the present subscription rate.

However, the rise in overhead costs since the beginning of the year and the forecast of even higher postal and other charges call for a revision.

It has been decided, and confirmed at the recent Annual General Meeting to make a moderate increase to £1.50 single and £2.00 joint, but this will not come into effect until January 1st 1977. Such members as joined in September 1975 and 1976 and who pay accordingly, will be given three months' grace and will come into line with the rest of the members on January 1st 1977.

Revised Banker's Order Forms are being sent later to all members. It would be to the advantage both to the Society and to individual members if at least some of those who at present pay by cheque would sign the new banker's order when it comes. It can be utilised for 1976 by inserting

"pay now the sum of £1.05/£1.50 and thereafter .....

E. R. T.

Conferences 1975 & 1976

The Conference at Moor Park, Farnham ended in a spirit of general good will, and the Editor has his arrangements in hand for a full report, supplemented by articles written by those members whose excellent talks we enjoyed.

We now look forward to our first visit to Wales. Make a note now of the date and the place:

August 20/22 1976, at the Snowdonia National Park Study Centre, Plas Tan y Bwlch, Maentwrog, Gwynedd, LL41 3EU.

The Events Committee are busy making plans which should be available for publication in the Spring Bulletin.

DIARY OF EVENTS (See Group news for details)

1975

- Oct. 16th: Norfolk Branch monthly meeting.
- Nov. 10th: West of Scotland. Dwarf Conifers. R.J. Bezzant
- Nov. 28th: W. Midlands. Slides. Heather arrangements.
- Nov. 29th: Mid Southern visit to Brig. Smith. Talk by Mr. John Clayton of Wisley.

1976

- Jan. 19th: West of Scotland. The Island of Handay. P. Connelly
- Feb. 17/18: RHS Winter flowering heath competitions, Schedules from RHS Secretary, Vincent Square.  
Committee and Council meetings, on Feb. 17th.
- March 21: Mid Southern visit to Mr. & Mrs. Brian Malin's garden.
- March 22: West of Scotland A.G.M. followed by a talk (to be arranged)
- May 26, 27, 28. Chelsea Flower Show. 6 Tickets available (S.A.E. to Mrs. MacLeod).
- June 14: West of Scotland evening visit to Mr. & Mrs. Bezzant's garden.
- August 20-22: HEATHER SOCIETY ANNUAL CONFERENCE at Snowdonia National Park Study Centre.
- August 29: West of Scotland visit to a nursery (to be arranged)
- Sept. 7/8: RHS Heather Competitions (Schedules as described above)
- Sept. 28, 29, 30. RHS Great Autumn Show. 6 tickets available (SAE to Mrs. MacLeod)

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Following a second appeal from Mr. Harold Street that someone would volunteer to run a photographic competition, we are happy to tell you that Mr. J. Fulcher submitted the following schedule to the Moor Park Conference where it was cordially accepted.

The competition will be an annual event for 35 mm transparencies and that the winning entries will be retained by the Heather Society for inclusion in the Society's Library.

Entries should be submitted not later than June 30th 1976.

Judging to take place by independent persons, one for the photographic skill and the other for heather quality, the result to be announced in the Year Book.

The competition will be for three classes:

- A. General view of a Garden in which Heathers must be the predominant plant.
- B. Specimen plant, any variety.
- C. Floral decoration comprising Heathers with optional compatible flowers and foliage of any type.
- D. Heathers in the wild.

Entries will be judged on the standard of both plant and photography.

Note In Class A competitors will be asked to state whether the garden is their own, if not, whose.

In Class B the name of the variety must be included.

In Class C. the decoration must conform to the generally accepted description of a floral decoration.

In Class D. the location must be given.

Each competitor may select three transparencies for each class, remembering that they should be clear, sharp, accurate in colour and good composition and must be their own composition but not necessarily their own processing.

They should be correctly spotted (i.e. on top right hand corner as inserted in the projector), the slide to be marked with Class Letter (A,B,C. or D) together with name and address of author.

Entry forms may be obtained from

H. J. Fulcher, 30 Mousehold Lane, Norwich.

Entrance fee 10p. for each class to defray expenses of the competition.

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Result of Heather Competitions held at the RHS, London, September 2, 1975

Class 1. E. vagans, 1 plant. 2 entries  
1st The Wellcome Foundation. 'St. Keverne'  
2nd " " 'Lyonesse'

Class 3. Calluna, single coloured flower,  
1 plant. 4 entries.

1st Hydon Nurseries. 'Darkness'  
2nd Hydon Nurseries. 'Joy Vanstone'  
3rd B.G. London. Unnamed seedling

Class 5. Ditto. Double coloured.  
1 plant. 2 entries

1st Hydon Nurseries. 'J.H. Hamilton'  
2nd The Wellcome Foundation 'Tib'

Class 7 Single/Double White  
1 plant. 3 entries

1st Hydon Nurseries 'Ruth Sparkes'  
2nd " " 'Serlei aurea'  
3rd The Wellcome Foundation 'Alba'

Class 9. E. cinerea, 1 vase 8 entries

1st Gen. Turpin. 'Purpurea'  
2nd " " "Apple blossom'  
3rd " " 'P.S. Patrick'  
4th Dr. V.R. Gray 'Rosea'

Class 11. Daboecia, 1 vase. 5 entries

1st The Wellcome Foundation 'Alba'  
2nd Mrs. E. Godbolt 'Praegerae'  
3rd Hydon Nurseries 'Praegerae'

Class 13 as Class 12, 1 vase 7 entries

1st Gen. Turpin E x Watsonii 'Dawn'  
2nd Mrs. Godbolt. E. mackaiana 'Plena'  
3rd " " " " 'Dr. Ronald Gray'  
4th Hydon Nurseries E x Watsonii 'Dawn'

Class 2. ditto, 1 vase. 5 entries

1st. Maj. Gen. Turpin. 'St. Keverne'  
2nd B.G. London 'Rubra'  
3rd Mrs. E. Godbolt 'Mrs. D. F. Maxwell'

Class 4, ditto, 1 vase 14 entries

1st. The Wellcome Foundation 'Alportii'  
2nd Hydon Nurseries. 'Fred Chapple'  
3rd " " 'Darkness'  
4th B.G. London 'Silver Rose'

Class 6. ditto, 1 vase. 4 entries

1st Gen. Turpin 'H. E. Beale'  
2nd Mrs. E. Godbolt 'J. H. Hamilton'  
3rd B.G. London 'County Wicklow'

Class 8. ditto, 1 vase. 6 entries

1st Gen. Turpin. 'Anthony Davis'  
2nd " " 'Mairs Variety'  
3rd Hydon Nurseries. 'Serlei aurea'

Class 10. ditto, 1 plant. 1 entry

1st Gen. Turpin. 'White Dale'

Class 12. Any species or hybrid not mentioned above, 1 plant 2 entries.

1st -  
2nd Mrs. Godbolt, E. mackaiana 'Dr. Ronald Gray'  
3rd Gen. Turpin E x Watsonii

Class 14. Any heather, Foliage effect  
1 vase. 8 entries.

1st Mrs. Godbolt E. cin. 'Golden Drop'  
2nd Gen. Turpin, E. x darleyensis 'Jack H. Brummage'  
3rd " " Cal. v. 'Silver Queen'  
4th The Wellcome Foundation Cal. v. 'Robert Chapman'

Class 15. as Class 14, 1 plant, 4 entries  
 1st Hydon Nurseries 'Valerie Proudley'  
 2nd Gen. Turpin C.v. Unnamed seedling  
 3rd " " " " "

Class 16 A table arrangement predominantly  
 heathers. 3 entries.  
 1st Mrs. A.H. Bowerman, mixed ericas  
 2nd Mrs. Turpin Heathers, gentians, dwarf  
 cyclamens  
 3rd Mrs. Bowerman Ericas, Callunas & foliage

Comment: Considering the difficult season, the heathers were of a high standard. A disappointingly low entry in the flower arrangement class. We must do better to avoid the cancelling of this innovation in the competitions.

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GROUP NEWS

Encouraging reports come in from the local groups. First comes Mr. A.W. Jones's of the South West area.

"We seem fated with the weather. After snow for our opening meeting we had continuous rain for the propagation meeting at Mr. Edge's nursery at Ringwood on the 12th July. However, Mr. Edge had made preparations for us to hold the meeting in one of his greenhouses. Nineteen members came along including nine who were new to the local section.

Mr. Edge opened the meeting with a talk and demonstration on his method of propagating heaths and heathers, while Miss Burfitt had provided an informative display of sprigs of a wide variety of named cultivars. After the talk members enjoyed themselves inspecting Mr. Edge's fine display of young plants, exchanging cuttings or simply talking. At the close of the meeting Mr. Myers (Sherborne, Dorset) was heard to say "I've watched Mr. Edge, Mr. Smith and Mr. Jones taking cuttings and they all do it differently!"

We are indebted to Mr. Edge both for the amount of his precious time devoted to preparing for the meeting and for his hospitality in receiving us at his nursery. Finally may I say that I am very pleased to have heard of quite a number of meetings of individual members within the region possibly as a result of the local section's activities. Surely this is what the local sections are all about. Should any members from other areas be in ours, we extend a sincere invitation to them to attend our functions." In addition, Mr. Leo Mills of Budleigh Salterton, seeing the invitation to me quoted from Mr. Maltby's letter in Bulletin No. 5, had asked if he might visit him at his "quite unusual garden literally carved out of the Dartmoor National Park" where he was made most welcome. He hopes to arrange for some of the S.W. area members to visit it next year, though it is very remote.

West of Scotland Branch Certain changes have taken place, Mrs. Lyn Bezzant having handed over to Mr. Michael Bremner the office of convenor. His address is Coruisk, Dennistoun Rd. Langbank, Port Glasgow, Renfrewshire PA14 6XH. This is the only group able to supply a full year's programme as they met on August 30th and were able to draw it up in time for the Autumn bulletin. In his letter he writes:

"Saturday's meeting on August 30th was first of all a walk over part of the Muirhill Nature Trail. The heather though prolific was past its best but it was a pleasant day and the walk was enjoyed by everyone. The party came back to our place and had tea with my wife and myself. Altogether it was a most enjoyable meeting."

It is pointed out that all evening meetings unless stated otherwise are held at the Glasgow College of Technology at 7.30 p.m.

Mid Southern Group As announced in the summer Bulletin, our first meeting was held on August 2nd at Southcoote, Hindhead, the home of Mrs. Ronald Gray. It was a very warm day, so the cool room provided and the delicious tea which followed the meeting were very much appreciated. Despite the fairly small response so far from members in this area, the 14 present were keen to establish a Group, and a Resolution to this effect was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously. Six immediate aims were approved and will form the basis of our future programme:

- (a) Organising visits to gardens, both large and small, public and private, where heathers and ericaceous plants are of particular interest.

- (b) Holding gatherings where propagating is demonstrated, plant material exchanged and problems discussed.
- (c) Arranging between-season meetings with a talk, brains trust or slide show. (John Clayton of the RHS has already volunteered to speak).;
- (d) Raising modest funds to cover hire of halls and postal or telephone costs incurred by organising officers of the Group.
- (e) Drawing other Heather Society members living in our own vicinity into the Group using the address list at the back of the 1974 Year Book as a reference.
- (f) Meeting 3 or 4 times annually in different parts of the area, saving postage by making the announcement of plans in the previous season's Bulletin.

It was also suggested that members compile a joint Photo Album of colour prints demonstrating their best efforts in photography and heather gardening, to be on view at indoor meetings and conferences; the idea was greeted most enthusiastically. The annual subscription was set at 50p. each per annum and Mrs. Scantlin kindly agreed to act as Treasurer. It is hoped that further volunteers will come forward at future meetings so that we can form a planning committee.

Our next meeting will be held on the afternoon of Saturday 29th November, 3 p.m. at Greenoge, Furze Hill, Seale, by kind invitation of Brig. & Mrs. C. Smith. After visiting the garden, Mr. John Clayton, Public Relations Officer of the RHS Gardens at Wisley, will give a talk with slides. If you live anywhere in Surrey, West Sussex or East Hants, do come and join the Group at this meeting. Mr. Brian Malin has invited the Group to visit his garden and view some slides on Sunday, March 21st from 3 - 6 p.m. at 21, Findon Road, Worthing, Sussex.

East Sussex & Thanet Group A Group circular, embellished by the small heather motif chosen for non-official or occasional headings has come from the Weald and Thanet Group, suggesting that for next year the "successful arrangement tried last year by calling on a combination of 2 or 3 within striking distance of each other" might continue. "So that all is not lost for 1975" the Group was invited to two gardens in Crowborough on September 18th.

Midland News. A few days before the Midland Group visited Mr. & Mrs. Law's garden at Draycote near Rugby on 20th July, a great storm had caused the stream running through the garden to overflow. Almost the whole garden had been submerged, but although the last of the water had receded only the day before our visit, miraculously there was hardly a leaf out of place. This is a delightful garden with many heathers and an interesting collection of foliage plants; a small water-fowl enclosure is an added attraction.

At a meeting in these pleasant surroundings 31 members and friends present considered the Technical Committee's proposals for a Preferred List of heathers and agreed on the basis of their comments. It was also agreed to hold another meeting in Birmingham on November 28th, Friday, in Friends' Meeting House, Bull Street, Birmingham at 7.15 for 7.45. Mr. Hutcherson will show slides of his two-acre heather garden.

Ladies are invited to bring with them a small heather arrangement and we will hold a little competition to choose the most attractive.

There will also be time for discussion of matters of current interest. **THIS IS THE ONLY NOTICE. PLEASE MAKE A NOTE NOW.**

The Northern Group could give no programme until they meet as stated in the Summer Bulletin on Sept. 27/28, Oct. 4 and Oct. 16.

As they do not meet in January or February, their 1976 programme will not be inconvenienced by waiting till the Spring Bulletin goes out, possibly in view of the appalling postage costs at the same time as the 1976 Year Book, but we regret that they have been unable to give us their Group news.

The Norfolk Branch The regular monthly meeting is the third Thursday and is held

in the Taverham Village Hall. Mr. London had the good fortune to have Mrs. Pamela Harper, one-time Editor of the Year Book but now resident for many years in the USA, as a guest at their Thursday meeting on June 19th, and this was followed on July 31st by a non-heather visit to Mr. Peter Boardman's holly orchard. This might have offered even more interest for Pamela had she not gone home by then, as Mr. Boardman is a member of the American Holly Society, growing ten varieties and cutting over a ton of berried sprays for the Christmas market. Between these two visits on June 26th a smaller number than usual again visited Bressingham Gardens, the beautiful nursery of Adrian Bloom. Even if heather was sparse "the foliage colours and his lovely conifers made up for it." In a few years' time look out for a silvery white Picea pungens 'Hoopsii' which "I looked as if it had been sprayed with aluminium paint as even the trunk was white" to quote Mr. London again.

As ever, Mr. London's garden continues to attract visitors, the latest reported being Mrs. Sylvia Hawkins who was so thrilled with it that she wrote all about it to me. But I have since heard that his losses from the drought have been far worse than mine, on his sandy soil.

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

#### Heathers from Horley flourish in Japan.

The habit of visiting members' gardens can have happy consequences. I have a letter from Mr. Satoshi Miwa of Japan, saying:

Three years have passed since I visited England in 1972. I succeeded in rooting cuttings of heathers you kindly gave me at that time and most of them are well established in the field of our experimental station. Enclosed are pictures of Erica cinerea 'C.D. Eason' and 'Alba minor'. E. arborea 'Alpina', x darleyensis 'George Rendall', E. carnea 'Pink Spangles', Calluna vulgaris 'Nana compacta', 'Barnett Anley' and 'H.E. Beale' are also vigorously growing.

C.v. 'Ruth Sparkes' seems to be weaker than other varieties and is dying off year by year. It may not tolerate the cold dry wind in our winter. Fortunately its offspring are growing healthily in pots under protection. Another problem is E. lusitanica. It dies back considerably in hard frost and is an unsuitable variety for growing outdoors in our climate.

I am now preparing hundreds of rooted cuttings to construct a heather garden in front of our office. Furthermore I have imported about thirty-five varieties from W.E. Th. Ingwersen. Most of them are becoming established gradually.

Now I am going to tell something about Cape Heaths. My collection reaches about forty species and three hybrids. But I have seen only about twenty of them in flower. I have been endeavouring to root cuttings of them and have succeeded with most of them. I hope to offer rooted or unrooted cuttings to any member wishing for them, if possible.

A hybrid Cape Heath named 'Christmas Parade' has recently been introduced into Japan. Its origin is not clear though it is said to have been raised in New Zealand. It has large tubular rose red flowers. Its flowering season here is June, hence it would coincide with Christmas in the Southern Hemisphere. I should like to know anything about it if you have the information.

(Have any of our New Zealand members any knowledge of this hybrid?)

#### Another International Success!

Through the kind co-operation of Mr. Terry Underhill, we were able to meet the request of our French member, the Count de La Rochefoucauld to send a student to help him in propagating heathers at his home Les Tourelles near Paris.

I quote from his letter:

"I was so pleased to have Hazel Archer this summer and want to thank you. She was a very nice girl and skilful.

I think it is a good thing to organise these trips for young people, so they get to know each other."

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### Heath Fires

Many of us will have heard on the radio or read in our papers of the devastating fires that raged over the Luneburger Heath in Western Germany during the summer drought. I have a commemorative vase in my possession, given to the Society by our member Herr Westermann, showing the motor road which may be familiar to some of you, passing through the heath alongside the fine old towns there. We grieve over the loss of so much heathland, forest and wild life. Celle, the garrison town for some of our troops is at the extreme south of the heath.

### VISIT TO THE LOW COUNTRIES

In August, Brian Proudley and I fascinatingly spent five days with Mr. van de Laar, and one in north Belgium staying most agreeably at the de Belder arboreta at Kalmthout. Maj. Gen and Mrs. Turpin were to have completed the party, but she most unfortunately hurt her back and they couldn't come.

We were taken on an Ericultural excursion to gardens etc. near Gelderingen in the north, to the van Gimborn arboretum at Doorn, the two at Wageningen, where we also saw the Beijerinck heather herbarium, went to the University Botanic Garden at Utrecht, the Driebergen one and that of the Experimental station at Boskoop, and were in the large Haalboom nursery, the vast Darthuizer one and the small, yet fantastically rich, Zwijnenburg one. Gardens generally, indeed all the smallest private ones, were interesting, colourful and well kept and set a very high standard.

We met many kind friends and learnt much - new varieties, trials of yellow foliage cultivars, comparative plantings to check naming on which we had valuable discussions. It was all most rewarding and hospitable. Such trips should be regular, official, part of our annual programme, alternate years here and over there. Meanwhile, very warm thanks to the van de Laars and their many Dutch confreres who were so good to us too, and to the hospitable de Belders.

David McClintock

### BOOK REVIEWS

PEATLAND FLORA OF NEWFOUNDLAND by A.W. Robertson, F.C. Pollett and O.A. Olsen. Newfoundland Forest Research Centre, St. John's. 1973.

The close connection between peat and most of our heathers suggests that members may like to know of this careful compilation. It is 442 pages long, mainly with a black and white drawing on the right hand page and the text opposite. This gives a description and adds ecological notes. The book may help suggest some companion plants for us to use, if they can be legitimately obtained, such as the orchids Arethusa bulbosa and Calopogon pulchellus, or Clintonia borealis and Smilacina trifolia of the Liliaceae. It would be a worth-while triumph to succeed with any of these. A large number of plants in this book are also British natives. 205 are dealt with, 69 of them bryophytes, lichens and stoneworts. This book was so successful that it rapidly became out of print. A reprint is being considered. Meanwhile the most convenient copy of the few in these islands is at Wisley. I am indebted to our member, Mr. Brickell, the Director there, for the loan of it.

D. McC.

### MORE NEWS OF BOOKS

Our Dutch members will not need to be told of two new books on heather: one a small handbook by W. Haalboom, published by Thieme's Zakboeken voor Natuur-vrienden, its title *Heideplanten en heidetuinen*, adequately illustrated in colour and of particular interest in having a month to month record of the cultivars in bloom throughout the year. There are the usual garden layouts or plants, where one could wish for greater accuracy in spelling, with "contabrica" and "cineria", but apart from 'Stowborough', 'Beoly' and 'Frances Eray', cultivar names are fairly accurate.

The other book, Harry van de Laar's "Het heidetuinboek", published by Zomer & Keuning Boeken B.V., Wageningen, is a more substantial book, with good colour pictures, though even here, one cannot accept on page 55 a picture of 'Mrs. Ronald Gray' in pure white flower. Perhaps mauve is a difficult colour, for on the same page we see a white 'Silver Queen'. A much fuller review of this book was written by David McClintock in the 1975 Year Book.

Quite clearly, no review could be written by the last named for the two books published this year in England.

1. The Wild Flowers of Guernsey, noted on the dust jacket as "the fruit of a quarter-century of study." David McClintock's dedication of the book.

For La Société Guernesiaise, in appreciation of what its members, and those of the National Trust of Guernsey, do for the island.

sums up his affection for the people and his absorption in its flowers. Very briefly he deals with heather: Calluna is "locally common, mostly on the cliffs. Its Erica cinerea has become known in England as 'Guernsey Plum', 'Guernsey Purple', 'Guernsey Pink' and perhaps best known of all, 'Guernsey Lime'. There is no E. Tetralix or E. ciliaris.

The book, published by Collins, costs £4.75.

2. Wild Flowers of the Channel Islands. A joint publication with excellent colour pictures by John D. Bichard and interesting descriptions of the flowers (only one paragraph on heather) by David McClintock. Published by Chatto & Windus, Price £2.50.

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### MEMBERS' FORUM

"The Botanic Garden" by Benjamin Maund.

Mr. & Mrs. E. T. Jones, after living 29 years in Worcester are moving to Trowbridge, Wilts, thus augmenting the number of members now in the South West. How glad we are that they will be among many whom they met at Dartington Hall in 1973!

As a final "gift" from Worcestershire, Mrs. Jones was given permission to copy out an extract from a set in the Local Collection of the Herefordshire and Worcestershire County Library, for as she says:

"I have been allowed to copy the following delightful description by Maund of our beloved Erica carnea and Erica mediterranea.

"Benjamin Maund lived at Bromsgrove in Worcestershire in the late 18th and early 19th century. He carried on a business as a printer and chemist and at the back of his premises had a botanical garden in which he grew the various species described in his book "The Botanic Garden", which was issued in parts to subscribers and illustrated with exquisite hand-coloured plates, executed it is believed by his wife, sister and daughters.

"The Botanic Garden" in the completed sets is now an extremely valuable collector's item. Many of the garden flowers he describes including Erica carnea had only recently been introduced."

(It will be noticed that the name Erica herbacea is used by Maund but dropped in this country, it is still used in the USA. Why was it dropped here? C.I.M.)



ERICA HERBACEA  
Early Dwarf Heath

Class  
Octandria

Order  
Monogynia.

Natural Order  
Ericae.

Native of Austria Height 6 ins. Flowers in Jan to Mar. Duration - Perennial. Introd. in 1793

No. 22

From the Greek EREICO, to break, from its supposed quality of breaking, or rather dissolving, the stone in the bladder. Herbacea from the Latin "herbaceous". It is sometimes called Erica carnea. Several other synonyms have been applied to the species but they are not now in use.

Perhaps no tribe of plants yields more ample evidence of the rapid progress of floriculture in this country than the present. Miller, not sixty years ago, described but five sorts of heath known in England but at the present period there are upwards of three hundred distinct species. Out of this number, according to Dr. Withering's arrangement, five only are indigenous to Great Britain, and unfortunately very few of the exotics will bear the severity of our climate, having been chiefly introduced from the Cape of Good Hope.

This heath may be raised from cuttings but as its procumbent branches increase freely in any light soil, a convenient mode of propagation is offered by layers which will root sufficiently to admit of separation in eighteen months.

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(Mrs. Jones continues:

"The prolonged drought which we have suffered has caused some established heathers to suffer. A rather touching echo of this is found in Maund's description of Erica mediterranea. I believe several hot dry summers were experienced between 1815-1820 when he was producing the series. I too have fallen into 'an excessive languor' at times this summer, like my plants. Here is his description of Erica mediterranea".)

ERICA MEDITERRANEA

Class  
Octandria

Mediterranean Heath

Order  
Monogynia

Natural Order  
Ericae

Native of Portugal Height 2ft. Flowers in April/May Duration First cultivated here in 1648  
(sic) Perennial

No. 74

The name of this beautiful genus has been noticed under No. 22 as derived from the Greeks; and it is remarked by Dr. Sibthorp that a corruption of the term Ereico is still used by them and applied to several species of this genus. Mediterranea has probably been chosen as indicative of the inland situation of which this species is native.

This like most others of the beautiful tribe to which it belongs should be planted in sandy peat, and may be increased by cuttings or layers. All the heaths should have occasional waterings in the heat of summer, or they may fall into excessive languor .....

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Jottings Month by Month

June Jam-Jar Cuttings

For the past two years in March, regretful of wasting so much fine material as I pruned I have resorted to the "jam-jar" technique described to us at Grantley Hall by Mr. Tyson, following an article by him in the 1970 Year Book. The success has been most pleasing: I now have lined up in a nursery bed rows of Cal.v. 'Tib', 'Ruth Sparkes', 'Winter Chocolate', 'Inshriach Bronze', 'Arran Gold', 'Anthony Davis', 'Elsie Purnell', 'Hammondii aureifolia', 'Torulosa', 'Robert Chapman' and 'Murielle F. Dobson.' It will be noted that I have taken only callunas probably because their long spring top-growth was urgent.

This is a method much to be recommended for the small grower. I have in fact almost given up my former favourite method of "Bottom-out-of-a-Box" July cuttings. 'Murielle F. Dobson' is a beauty, one of the earliest white dwarf callunas, and a long laster, two others being 'Caerketton White', found on the same range of hills near Edinburgh, and Jack Drake's 'White Mite'.

#### July. St. Kilda heathers

Of the four I bought from Mr. Brien at Stirling last year, 'Alex Warwick' is spectacular at present while 'Borerey' shows the down-curling characteristic of these island dwarfs. Both are white but have not yet been raided for cuttings.

#### In the Pink:

When I was young and forty seemed a long way off, I was told 'No woman over forty should wear pink.' Mercifully this stricture did not apply to what we grew in our gardens or where should we heather-women be! So I have been rejoicing this month in an orgy of pink. The cinereas bring in other colours, but the pink shades of x Watsonii 'H. Maxwell' and 'Truro' with 'Dawn' soon to follow, the charming x Williamsii 'P.D. Williams' and the earliest of the pink callunas 'Tib' and the strange x 'Stuartii' now reign supreme. Over some of them wave the nearest approach I know in the garden to "perpetual motion", the lovely silvery-pink dierama pulcherrima, bowing and swaying in the slightest breeze. With flowering arching stems of 5-6 feet the names sometimes used for it, "angels' fishing rods" or "wandflower" aptly describe it. I have two kinds, recently having been sent a huge load of the dwarf terra-cotta coloured one by a member whose garden soil was far too rich for it. At an RHS show in 1965 the late Leslie Slinger of Slieve Donard nursery, Co. Down, showed three fine cultivars produced by his father from this dwarf species but for me the tall one, the swaying-in-the-wind one, is far the loveliest. It gives height to a heather garden especially if grown among rocks, and after the flowers are over, there remain the elegant seed heads for the flower arranger.

#### August

We are now seeing the sad results of prolonged drought and heat during the greater part of the month. My worst losses have been an arborea 'Alpina', two erigena 'W. T. Rackliffe' and an australis 'Riverslea'. Though the carneas and the x darleyensis on the flat have not suffered, 'Mrs. Sam Doncaster' and 'Silverschmelze' have died where planted on raised beds. My callunas will not have their usual long spikes this year, particularly 'Elsie Purnell', but I am grateful to Mrs. Bowerman for pointing out that this Calluna needs light shade to flourish even in a normal summer. Hers are happily growing under a medium-sized tree with a slim trunk and a top canopy of leaves. Mine alas are grilling in the most open bed in the garden, especially chosen as best adapted for callunas! We live and learn.

#### September.

In the south of England our thoughts now turn to the RHS heather competitions held annually at the first show of the month to be followed in just over a week's time by the week-end Conference at Moor Park, Farnham.

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#### THE BIRDS OF ALTADENA

From time to time we have admired superb specimen plants put into the RHS Competitions in the name of Mrs. Godbolt. We got tantalising glimpses of her garden in the pictures shown by her nephew Alan Taylor on February 18/19, but it was only when three of us called at "Altadena" that we realised the great beauty of this garden.

A garden of two acres can and should hold more than heathers. In this case it is flanked by woodland consisting mainly of beech trees, and I noted that as at Windsor fallen leaves are swept as a thick mulch among the carneas bordering the drive on one side, while a variety of shrubs shuts off the entire garden from the public road on the other.

Mrs. Godbolt greeted us on the drive, but almost at once said

"Will you excuse me while I feed my birds." Not till a heavy shower drove us indoors did I realise what this meant. Outside the kitchen window, in a bower of conifer prunings and with every enticement and a joyous chorus of welcome, dozens, I might almost say hundreds of small wild birds were feasting. "Even two gold-crests come", said Mrs. Godbolt happily, and a lovelier addition to a garden could not be imagined. Humorously, however, Alan Taylor said,

"This is a good example of the Welfare State. Other people's lawns are worked by black-birds and thrushes --- but not this one."

I had always imagined that the great success he has in growing such fine plants must be because he was blessed with that ideal medium "green-sand." Not a bit of it. The plants of purple cabbage ("beautiful among heathers" said Mrs. Godbolt) that we took home were growing in the same rich black loam that characterises my garden. It is the gardener, not the soil, I now realise, though stacked bales of Irish moss peat bear witness to what he adds for heathers.

This success extends to the few Cape Heaths he grows. Once again we admired and envied his skill in growing the superb E. canaliculata he took to the RHS on February 18th: perfectly clothed with blossom from tip to bottom of the upright stems, with none of the inelegant twisting that mars mine. I hope that Alan who has had to put out of doors in a tub an E. glandulosa because it was too big for the greenhouse, will try growing Cape Heaths in the woodland. I was sent by Miss Elliott of Co. Down a fine spray of E. verticillata grown in hers. I feel that he could do the same in Mrs. Godbolt's.

How fortunate is the East Sussex/Thanet Local Group in having "Altadena" as their headquarters! But lest we others feel envious, Mrs. Godbolt said to me,

"I would welcome visits from other members. I am nearly always here". And really, what is there to make her want to go away!

I did not see the garden for some time after my spring visit, but a most delectable gift came to me, a half coconut-shell filled with melted fat in which skinned peanuts were embedded. A green plover greeting card was tied on, with the words "From the birds of Altadena" written on it. The birds of Yew Trees loved it. To my great delight, an invitation came to me to go to the East Sussex and Thanet Group meeting just a few days after we had many of us, seen gardens of great beauty in the Farnham area. Can one ever tire of seeing heathers? Not as far as I can tell. Heathers on banks, cascading down in orderly ranks: heathers massed in beds on level ground, heathers displayed amid emerald lawns, or, fascinatingly, with no lawns at all, where close-mown callunas form the paths. There need be no invidious comparison: we deal with what fate has given us in the way that suits our own inclination. We make no comparisons when we go from garden to garden. We are delighted on the rare occasions when we can say, secretly to ourselves, "My Barnett Anley is better than that!", only to be deflated a moment later by seeing another success that has eluded us.

One bed at Altadena has not been planted. Bare, do I mean? Not at all. Nature had seen to that. Blowing in from every quarter, though mostly callunas, what we call "unnamed seedlings" had taken over. "I can't destroy them", said Alan. "They represent so many ten-penceworths of bird food": and so we were back with the birds. Most of us have our own seedling bed, when we have to thin out the self-sown ones, but a better use than selling them in order to pay for the joy of feeding the birds it would be hard to find.

We slowly, very slowly, with so much to admire, made our way to the vegetable garden. "These naughty birds!" said Mrs. Godbolt, as we noted all the cabbage beds neatly hung with green netlon mesh. That is practical policy: they have to be disciplined, if we grow our own food. Yet I wouldn't put it past her to have allowed one quite big gap in the fortifications, just to let a little bit of garden produce be filched by them.

We did not see the same number of birds this time: the hedges are full of blackberries and the elderberries have not yet been stripped, but the greenfinches were there, feasting on the provided food.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

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- Z1 (from Kent) Mrs.V.D.Scott, 9 Fergus Rd. Kirkcudbright DG6 4HN  
" (from N.Ireland) Miss B.Thompson, Riverslea, 80 St.Mary's St. Kirkcudbright DG6 4EL  
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