

Mrs. C.I. MacLeod, Yew Trees, Horley, Surrey, RH6 8DF.

CHANGES AT THE TOP.

1. It has fallen to the lot of our Chairman, Mr. A.H. Bowerman to steer the Society through some big changes this year. Mr. Bowerman has been a member since the Heather Society was founded in 1963, one of our few remaining Founder Members. He was elected to what was then the COMMITTEE in 1969, and in 1971 on the resignation from the Chair of Sir John Charrington, our first Editor the late Mr. P.S. Patrick proposed the election of Mr. Bowerman to the Chair, and this was unanimously agreed.

Prior to this, Mr & Mrs. Bowerman made the joint effort, which has been of inestimable value, of drawing up a set of RULES, as a preliminary to our Society's registration as a Charity on April 29th, 1970. Socially, Mr & Mrs Bowerman have been most gracious hosts to the many who have visited their lovely home and garden in Sussex.

After six years as Chairman, attending all Council meetings and all but two Conferences, Mr Bowerman has decided that the time has come to retire.

2. For some time we have been telling our members of Mr Roy Turner's wish to resign as Treasurer. Many small societies have found it difficult, if not impossible, to expect the administration to be run on an almost voluntary basis with officers putting in long hours of unpaid work.

3. We took a long term view. The time must come when I too would wish to resign. I have been your Secretary for nearly fifteen years, and have been happy in the close friendliness so many of you have shown me. In recent years, the Bulletins have been my particular pleasure, when I felt I knew so many of you whom I had never met. But the administrative work is demanding, and this is why we feel the best solution is to relinquish the routine management, which takes up so much time, to an agency geared to do this professionally.

Accordingly on February 22nd 1977 the Council made the decision to hand over the secretarial and most of the treasury work to a Society that undertakes this at a very competitive fee. Harvest House, Reading, is the administrative headquarters of the Society for General Microbiology, but that is a name you will not need to worry about, Harvest House being neatly appropriate and easy to remember.

So it is that at the Annual General Meeting on September 17th I shall offer my resignation, confident that a Society which has so much enthusiasm and goodwill among its members will continue to flourish despite all these changes.

In the autumn a revised Heather Society leaflet will be produced and until then I shall continue enrolling new members and send each copies of the Bulletin and Year Book. Meanwhile you will like to know that Mr. Des Oliver, with that enthusiasm he has shown in promoting our sales, has agreed to keep the cash books, deal with all incoming bills, and generally monitor our finances.

Harvest House is now responsible for the maintenance of all membership records, the receipt of subscriptions, Bankers Orders, Covenants and the mailing of our regular publications. All correspondence should therefore be addressed to:

The Heather Society,
Administrative Office,
Harvest House,
62 London Road,
Reading, RG1 5AS.

It is thanks to the personal contact made by Mrs Pamela Lee that these negotiations, involving much detailed correspondence, have been made. She has relieved us of much anxiety regarding the future of the Society.

THE FULL MEMBERSHIP LISTS

These were promised for 1977 and members whose subscriptions had been received by March 31st, were listed.

Inevitably, some changes have already occurred! There have been resignations, and payments came in too late for inclusion.

New Members will continue to be published in each Bulletin, and changes of address when known. But alas, we are not able to tell you the names of those who have been lost to the Society.

NOTICES

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION: YOU STILL HAVE TIME to enter, closing date JUNE 30th. Send for Entry Form to Mr. H.J. FULCHER, 30 Mousehold Lane, Norwich NR7 8HE.

CONFERENCE, 1977 with ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, September 16-18, at UNIVERSITY RESIDENCES, Norwich.

The main block of 37 rooms is now full but there is still room available in a nearby block. Apply to Mr B.G. London, 6 Roedich Drive, Taverham, NR8 6RB, with 50p booking fee, for all details.

The A.G.M. will be held on Saturday, September 17th. at 11.30 a.m. in the Lecture Room at the University Residences, Fifers Lane, Norwich. For members not attending the full Conference these notes are given. Directions: From the Norwich Ring Road turn on to the A140, Aylsham-Cromer road, Turn R at the mini roundabout into Fifers Lane, towards the Airport. Proceed for 0.8 mile and you will see a sign on the L directing you to the Residences.

Day visitors will be able to have meals BUT ONLY IF THEY GIVE PRIOR NOTICE TO MR LONDON. Lunch £1.70, Dinner £2.00.

FOR SALE, Minimaster Addressing Machine.

You will notice a different form of address on this the last Bulletin that I shall edit. As previously explained, the work of addressing the envelopes is now being done by Harvest House.

I grew quite fond of the little addressing machine. After the initial outlay, we saved the cost of getting address labels done by the local secretarial services, and therefore the cost of the machine many times over.

Perhaps among our members may be someone struggling to keep up with the addressing of envelopes for some small society that you run. If so, please let me know. If you happen to be going to the Conference, or to some function with which I may have contact, I would be able to let you have the printing fluid too. This could not be sent by post. I have yet to find out what price we would need to charge.

C.I. MacLeod.

1978 CONFERENCE Outline plans:

1. Date: September 15-17. (Very similar to this year. DON'T get your dates muddled!).
Residence: LOSEHILL HALL, CASTLETON, Derbyshire. The Peak District National Park Study Centre. MAKE A NOTE at the end of this year's Diary NOW.
2. The COLOUR CHARTS for the Heather Trials Report: All purchasers of the Report who have returned the pink slip asking for a copy of the chart (which was included in the price) will get one but it may not be until the autumn. Details of supplies of our Sales Offers including the NEW EDITION of the "Pocket Guide to Heather Gardening" will be sent with the Autumn Bulletin.
3. DUPLICATED PAYMENTS:- From Bank Statements, dated April 26th, it appears that a number of the Bankers Orders at the old rates had already been paid for some members who had, as asked, sent back to us the revised form for the 1977 rates (£1.50 single, & £2.00 Joint,) cancelling the former order. May I ask any members who find that their bank has paid twice to send me a stamped addressed envelope for the return of their duplicate payment? Some members have most generously already made a donation of the overpayment to the Society's funds. In a time of such inflation as has hit us in both printing and postage, and with the loss of subscriptions through the sad necessity of some former members to resign, we are grateful to these benefactors. Perhaps others of you will be willing to do the same.

D.B. Oliver, Sales & Distribution Manager.

BOOK REVIEW

The Dutch have now produced four original books on heathers since our last one. (Nor is this all: for one thing the 5th edition of Mr. van de Laar's book within three years is now out, which brings the total printed, in Dutch alone, to 40,000) Their latest is another paper-back, HEIDETUIN by Nettie Knijff (Kosmos 11.90 fls.). 70 pages of general advice, with eight of excellent colour photos (except that one view is shown twice.).

This is hardly a book for English readers to buy, but an example of what someone over here should write - soon, with a more up-to-date choice of cultivars and better nomenclature.

D. McC.

The following are the results of the Heather Competition at the R.H.S. Hall, London, February 22-23 1977:-

Class 5. A heather in bloom, one plant.

3 entries

1st: Maj. Gen. P.G. Turpin with

"Springwood White"

2nd: Mrs. E. Godbolt with

"Myretoun Ruby"

3rd: The Wellcome Foundation with

"Silberschmelze"

Class 6. A heather in bloom, one vase.

9 entries

1st: Sheffield Park Gardens Nat. Trust with

"Lusitanica"

2nd: Mr. B.G. London with

"December Red"

3rd: Maj. Gen. P.G. Turpin with

carnea "Gracilis"

Class 7. A heather shown for foliage effect one plant.

1 entry

1st: Maj. Gen. P.G. Turpin with

"Golden Feather"

The Heather Society Display stand was arranged by Maj. Gen. and Mrs. P.G. Turpin and showed six 13" bowls containing carneas "Ann Sparkes", "December Red", Myretoun Ruby", "Springwood White", "King George", and Calluna "Golden Feather", provided by Windlesham Nurseries.

Vases of *E. x darleyensis* "Furzey", "Silberschmelze", "Jack H. Brummage", *E. carnea* "Carnea", *E. lusitanica*, a plant of Cape Heath "Limelight", and a vase of the latter showing 10" spikes of yellow flowers made an attractive addition.

Whilst Council members were attending meetings on the Tuesday, the stand was attended by Mrs. Turpin and Mrs. Forty, and on the Wednesday by Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Turpin and Mr. London. The results were 4 new members, and the sale of badges and copies of "The Heather Trials" brought from Leicester by Mr. D.B. Oliver.

The R.H.S. Summer Show

The Events Committee wish to invite members to take part in the Heather Competitions at the Show on August 9th and would like to draw attention particularly to the excellent Flower Arrangement classes. Schedules can be obtained now from the Show Secretary, R.H.S., Vincent Square. These competitions have had very few entries in the past but are really very worth while and should have our support if we are to continue our aim of "encouraging, assisting and fostering interest in the growing of Hardy Heaths and Heathers".

AN INVITATION

Our member Mr. N.H. Graville of Otley, a small market town in Wharfedale, only 4 miles from Ilkley Moor with its lovely walks, sends us this invitation: He has a small 3/4 berth caravan in his garden and offers the loan of it perfectly free to any Heather Society member who would like the use of it when it is not being used by him. They would only have to provide their own food and look after themselves. Harlow Car is about 15 minutes drive away, York an hour's drive, Leeds and Bradford twenty minutes and Skipton half an hour.

Otley is easily reached from the A1, the M1 and M62, and by train from Leeds and Harrogate, served by a good bus service. Anyone interested, please contact Mr. Graville. Address 168 Bradford Road, Otley, LS21 3LE. Tel: Otley 3755. We thank Mr. Graville for this most generous invitation.

A New *Erica erigena*

At the Chelsea Flower Show Bressingham Gardens included a new heather in their shrub garden exhibit on the Rock Garden Bank. It is *Erica erigena* "Golden Lady", a dwarf heather with golden foliage and white flowers, which makes a low compact mound. It showed up well among the dwarf conifers and should prove a useful addition to the spring-flowering heathers. According to Mr. Bloom, it originated as a sport on *E. erigena* "W.T. Rackliff".

P.G. Turpin

Two Corrections: Cape Heath Names, 1976 and 1977 Year Books

1. Mrs. Ruth Hayden writes:

MARY DELANY AND HER PAPER MOSAICS

In my article in the 1976 Year Book I said the slides of Mrs. Delany's heaths had been sent to Mr.E.G.H. Oliver in South Africa.

They have been returned and happily he confirms all the South African ones except "E. coccinea". This was guessed as possibly the quite recently named E. Pillansii. Mr. Oliver says it is not, but may be E. cruenta. Members may like to make a note of this on page 13 of the 1976 Year Book.

2. Mr. Keith Cassels writes:

"I have had a very interesting letter from Mr Aubrey of Milton Hutchings in which he points out a mistake in nomenclature in my article in the 1977 Year Book (page 11). The hybrid which I referred to as being impressive should have been "Delight" not "Gaiety" as stated."

(From C.I.M. Here I bow my head in shame! When I read Mr. Cassels description of "Gaiety" as "a hyemalis hybrid, slightly more apricot in colour" it went through my mind that I had seen "Gaiety" when Mr Cleevely brought it to Mrs. Ronald Gray's Cape Heath party in 1973. It was a deep rosy version of E. oatesii, and was certainly NOT "an apricot form of hyemalis!")

My sins of omission have found me out. But one thing emerges: Mr. Esgate and Mr. Aubrey gave us the wonderful range of hybrids they took to the party and I am the happy owner, I now discover, of "Delight". I had not known the name of the one I chose as "impressive".

.....

Mr. Cassels' letter goes on with some other fascinating references again "sparked off" by the Year Book.

"I was also interested in the short article about a cross between E. erigena and E. carnea. I have a plant - in fact several - given me by Mrs. Montgomery (formerly of Kinlochruel) which we know as "Pink Rackliff". One parent is certainly "W.T. Rackliff" and Brig. Montgomery thought the other was "Eileen Porter" as these two cultivars were growing together where the seedlings occurred.

My planting is in Coll where it seems to stand up well to the conditions; I shall be seeing the plants at Easter and hope to get a better idea of their potential merit.

My only other point of news is that three seedlings of E. elegans have survived all this winter's frosts (10° of frost on some occasions) in an unheated frame and the last two quite sharp frosts (4° or 5°) with the frame open."

GROUP NEWS

Northern.

On 17th March we had an interesting illustrated programme by Mr. Barraclough, showing examples of Heather Gardens and in particular wild heathers in Kintyre where the callunas are predominantly coloured pink rather than purple. Scottish members may find it rewarding to investigate.

The Heather Trials Report has brought an appreciative letter from our Canadian member Ken Wilson (the University of British Columbia.) We hope to see him at Harlow Car when he visits in May, after this note has gone to press.

J. P. Ardron.

Midlands.

The Midland Group held their first purely social event on Saturday 26th February. David and Rosemary Radley had very kindly invited us to their home in Stourbridge and with the help of several of the lady members they provided an excellent buffet supper. Conversation was brisk throughout the evening and there was no doubt that thanks to our hosts, the experiment had been a great success.

Members will have been grieved to learn that Miss Margaret Forrester who was in very good spirits at the party, was taken ill shortly afterwards and died a day later. She had been a constant supporter of the Group since its inception and will be sadly missed.

Midlands (continued)

Return Visits. On the day the Midland Group last visited Graham Cookes' garden in Fenny Drayton, Mr. Cookes noticed a white sport on a plant of "H.E. Beale". He has invited us to make another visit on Sunday, 25th September when we shall no doubt see some of the splendid plants which have resulted from the sport, now named "My Dream". The address of this lovely heather garden, in which you will be welcome to enjoy your picnic lunch is Little Froome, Drayton Lane, Fenny Drayton, Nuneaton.

From Fenny Drayton we shall make another visit to Graham Hutcherson's garden at Butt's Croft House, Corley. Those who saw this garden in its early days will look forward to seeing the development of the thousands of heathers and conifers in this remarkable collection.

Harold Street

Norfolk.

At the quarterly meeting of the Norfolk Branch held on Thursday, 17th March at Nightingale School, Taverham, members were very interested in being shown by Mr. David Small his method of taking heather cuttings, followed by Mr. Neil Brummage showing how to prune the plants after flowering to ensure the best results.

Plants were later offered for sale, providing a percentage of the cost to the local funds, thus concluding a very entertaining and instructive evening.

A limited invitation: A limit of 20 members are invited to the John Innes Institute, Colney Lane, Cringelford at 6.45 p.m. on Thursday June 23rd. First 20 to send in their names to me will qualify.

B.G. London

South West Local Section.

In brilliant February sunshine 21 members met in Mr. & Mrs. Peter Stoddart's garden in the old world charm of their thatched cottage at Charlton Horethorne. Members admired many varieties of young plants thriving as if there had never been a drought. "Ann Sparkes's" beautiful foliage glistened red, green and gold and the silver leaves, of a fine *Euryops acraeus* made an interesting foil to the ericas around it.

Then on to another friendly greeting from Mr. & Mrs. Jones at West Camel. In the garden, bordered by a pretty stream, we admired the clever use of peat blocks to give a slight elevation and a charming group of "Irish Salmon" was one of the many delights of the winter garden. At a meeting held in their lounge over a welcome tea plans were laid for the future including the possibility that the Group might put on a display at one of the larger shows in the area.

Ruth Hayden.

Visit 23rd July, Further to the Item in the Diary.

Visit to George Osmond at Wickwar followed by tea at Mrs. Hayden's in Bath. Mrs. Hayden would like to hear from members wishing to accept her invitation. She suggested that on arrival from George Osmond's we should park in an adjoining road which is marked "Leading to Eastbury Avenue". This is in order that we may enjoy the full beauty of the house and garden. Members will appreciate the reason for this request when they see this very unusual town garden.

Farther West. Unfortunately, illness has prevented Mr. Roy Maltby from proceeding with any hope of having visits at present.

Mid Southern.

On a sunny day in March, refreshed by only a couple of brief "April Showers", twenty-six people joined the Mid-Southern Group's day at Windsor to visit three very different types of Gardens in Windsor Great Park. We were welcomed by Mr. John Bond, Keeper of the Gardens who led us around the beautifully landscaped 7-acre Heather Garden, created on the site of an old quarry. He gave us his views on the care of some of the 200 species of heather grown there, the first plantings being made between 1955 & 1960, with frequent additions & replacements being made as the garden developed.

Mid Southern. (continued)

He concluded that the summer heaths are at their best for only about five years, but that the carneas and winter hybrids have twice this span before deteriorating. Especially admired at this time was the planting of 200 "Myretoun Ruby" and the colour contrasts in a bed comprising the white "Silberschmelze" and various darleyensis varieties in shades of pink and purple.

We were then guided towards the 300 acre Valley Gardens which until 1974 were overgrown by a thicket of ponticum rhododendrons, and tree saplings. In addition to camellias and early rhododendrons of many colours, we were fortunate enough to see some of the magnificent magnolias, before the April frosts caught so many in full bloom, with pink flowers looking most impressive against the distant threatening grey thunderclouds.

After lunch the party broke up into individual groups to visit the neighbouring Savill Garden started in 1932 but not fully developed until after the second World War - beautiful at all times of the year and considered to be "one of the finest of its type in the northern temperate regions of the world". This was indeed the best time to see the Cyclamineus and Bulbocodium Narcissi which have naturalised themselves in the lawns along the edges of the stream and although too early for the azaleas & rhododendrons, there was plenty to see: Camellias, Corylopsis, many varieties of hellebore, anemones & early daffodils and primroses. For many of us, the visit ended in a spate of plant buying including some small but choice camellias.

P.G. Turpin & P.B. Lee

DIARY OF EVENTS

June 13:	West of Scotland visit Craigmarloch Nursery 7.30 p.m.
June 16:	Norfolk Branch, Taverham Village Hall 7.30 p.m.
June 23:	Norfolk Branch limited invitation. See Group News.
June 26:	CANCELLED 7 day Display Sheffield Bot. Gdn.
July 2:	Mid-Southern, Great Comp, Garden (2.30) and Concert (7 p.m.).
July 21:	Sheffield Group visit Geo. Osmond and Mrs. Hayden. See Group News.
Aug. 2:	W. of Scotland visit Stirling Univ. Gardens. 2.30 p.m.
Aug. 9-10:	RHS Heather Competitions.
Aug. 13:	Mid-Southern visit Brig. Lucas Phillip's garden. Oxshott 2.30 p.m.
Aug. 25:	Norfolk Branch, Taverham Village Hall. 7.30 p.m.
Sept. 10-11:	Sheffield & Dist.: Annual Display, Sheffield Bot. Gdns. Public Sessions of Box with Tape.
Sept. 16-18:	CONFERENCE WITH AGM, University Residences, Norwich.
Sept. 25:	Midlands visit to Mr. Cookes & Mr. Hutcherson. See Group News.
Oct. 1:	Harlow Car Group 2.30 p.m. in Members' Room N.H.S.
Oct. 3:	Mid-Southern: Join us either at 2 p.m. Main Gate of Kew to visit gardens or at 5.15 in the Heather Garden to meet the gardeners and staff - members of Kew Improvement Soc.
Oct. 20:	Sheffield Group, Friends House, Sheffield 7.30 p.m.
Dec. 1:	Sheffield Group, Friends House, Sheffield 7.30 p.m.

FUTURE OF THE BULLETIN.

The Publications Committee would like to hear from any member or members who will volunteer their services on the editorial side of the Bulletin, to collect in and assemble enough material for each of (or perhaps one of) the three editions annually. If help is not forthcoming, it may lead to some considerable delay or complete cancellation of the next few issues. Technical knowledge, though useful, is not essential as problems of layout, typing and printing can be taken care of. We would also like to reiterate Mrs. MacLeod's repeated appeals for material. Please send in your ideas and experiences - the Readers Forum is for you to fill with items of interest.

Mr. Arnold Stow would also like to hear from anyone willing to give him editorial assistance on the Year Book.

P.B.L.

NEW MEMBERS

We were able to include the latest supplement of new members under "Stop Press" in the Full Membership Lists enclosed.

A TRIBUTE.

As you now know, our long serving, hard working Secretary, Mrs. C.I. MacLeod, is retiring from office this year after serving from 1963 when the Society was founded. She has dealt with your subscriptions, answered your letters, checked and despatched the Year Books, written the Bulletins, and typed out thousands of names and addresses for the members list on her battered old typewriter, sometimes working until the early hours of the morning, and only recently got up at 4 a.m. to type out the Group notices then do some gardening. I would like to pay a tribute on behalf of the Membership to this dedicated lady who has voluntarily served us so long.

B.G. London.

ORDER FORM

To Mr. D. B. Oliver, 27 Valentine Road, Leicester. LE5 2GH.

Please send me:—

..... copies Results of Harlow Trials.	£1. 75 post free
..... Heather Society Badges (members only)	50p. post free
..... copies "A Guide to the Naming of Plants" (David McClintock)	60p. inc. postage
..... copies Index to Year Books 1963 — 72	45p. inc. postage

TOTAL

Cut off the Order Form and send with cheques and postal orders payable to THE HEATHER SOCIETY to Mr Oliver.