

Editor: Mrs. Diane H. Jones, Otters' Court, West Camel, Nr. Yeovil, Som. BA22 7QF.

We are always interested to hear from members concerning their own experiences of growing heathers and to pass on these observations, helpful hints and queries to other members through the Bulletin or the Year Book. One thing which never fails to surprise us is the variation of opinion on a particular cultivar, and personal 'favourites'. Soil conditions and climate obviously play their part in the performance of our heathers - in this corner of Somerset the soil is very alkaline, very heavy and wet; and yet with plenty of peat and sharp sand the lime-tolerant varieties do very well for us. One thing experience has taught us is that regular watering in a dry spell (especially during April/May/June when the plants are putting on their new growth) is invaluable in maintaining bushy and healthy heathers. Do let us hear your ideas and your problems.

Diane Jones.

10th ANNUAL CONFERENCE - 12th-15th September 1980

The address of the Conference Centre is: St. Margaret's College, Clerwood Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 8TS (Tel. 031 339 8111). A map and a detailed timed programme will be sent to those attending on receipt of their Conference fees.

Advance bookings for the Conference should already have been sent to Mrs. A.C. Duvall, Sandacre, Pine Ridge Drive, Lower Bourne, Farnham, Surrey. GU10 3JP. Fees (see scale of charges below) should be sent to Mrs. Duvall before 31st July, 1980, with details of time of arrival and date of departure. Vegetarian and Diabetic diets can be arranged, but if required, details must be sent at the time of payment. Cheques to be made payable to "Heather Society Conference".

Ground floor and double rooms are not available, but couples will be accommodated, as far as possible, in neighbouring rooms. Points for electric shavers are only available in the bathrooms; adaptors may be used in light sockets in bedrooms.

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| Times of meals: | Breakfast | 8.00 a.m. |
|                 | Lunch     | 1.00 p.m. |
|                 | Dinner    | 6.00 p.m. |

Regrettably there is no bar on the premises, but there is a licensed Hotel close by. Details of the programme were published in the Spring Bulletin. A coach has been arranged for the visit to Tynninghame Gardens, East Linton, East Lothian, on the Saturday afternoon. Will those who would prefer to use their private cars please let Mrs. Duvall know.

The scale of charges is:

|                  |                          |      |
|------------------|--------------------------|------|
| <u>Residents</u> | Friday pm. to Monday am. | £39. |
|                  | Friday pm. to Sunday pm. | £30. |

(The above charges include the coach excursion).

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| <u>Non-Residents:</u> | Daily charge including coffee, lunch,<br>afternoon tea and dinner | £8. |
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## SECRETARY'S NOTES

Revised System of Zoning: Following requests from several parts of the country for the reorganisation of our zoning system, the Council has approved a plan to create new zones where the area covered previously was extensive.

It is hoped that the more manageable grouping will encourage members locally to get together and organise activities, which need not necessarily be confined to their "home" territories. It will take a little getting used to, but please don't feel you are excluded from attending meetings which you have been used to attending just because your address no longer lies within that Group. The 1980 Membership List has been produced according to the new system and should enable you to see more easily who lives in your vicinity.

We are particularly looking for Group Organisers in two zones: Yorkshire (Z5) and North Thames (Z10) as well as in Wales (Z8), Ireland (Z2) and ideally three more in Scotland (Z1). There is very little work involved, using the Bulletin as much as possible as a means of communication, and this is a great opportunity to bring more life into the Society in your immediate area. If you are interested in helping, please write to me direct at 'Birches', Kingswood Firs, Grayshott, Hindhead, Surrey. The zones have been re-numbered so that they follow roughly in sequence from north to south.

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|---------|--|
| Zone 1  | Scotland   |
| Zone 2  | N. Ireland and Eire  |
| Zone 3  | North East (N'thd, Tyne & Wear, Dur. Clev).                    |
| Zone 4  | North Western (Cumb, Lancs, Mers. Gr, Man, Chesh, IOM).        |
| Zone 5  | Yorkshire (N. Yorks, W. Yorks, S. Yorks, Humb).                |
| Zone 6  | East Midlands (Derbs, Leics, Notts, Lincs).                    |
| Zone 7  | West Midlands (Staffs, Salop, W. Mid, War, Heref/Worcs, Glos). |
| Zone 8  | Wales.   |
| Zone 9  | Eastern (Norf, Suff, Essex, Cambs).                            |
| Zone 10 | North Thames (Bucks, Oxf, Beds, N'pton, Herts, N. Lond).       |
| Zone 11 | Southern (S. Lond, Berks, Hants, IOW, Kent, Suss, Surr.)       |
| Zone 12 | South West (Som, Dor, Avon, Wilts).                            |
| Zone 13 | Farther West (Devon, Corn.)                                    |
| Zone 14 | Overseas.  |

N.B. We would like to record our grateful thanks to Mr. Eric Wiseman of Esher who has temporarily shouldered the burden of mailing our literature, hence this Spring the Year Book reached members within a few days of coming off the press.

Pamela Lee.

### THE LAKELAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S GARDEN at HOLEHIRD, WINDERMERE.

This is a natural rock garden situated on the main road from Windermere to the Kirkstone Pass, and was taken over by the Lakeland Horticultural Society in 1971, and restored after years of neglect. In addition to magnificent mature trees and shrubs,

including one of the largest pocket handkerchief or ghost tree (*Davidia involucrata*) in the British Isles, the heather garden is one of the finest in Northern England, with large groups of many varieties displayed to perfection in the magnificent setting. The committee of the Society is constantly up-dating and improving the collections of all plants, and whilst the size of the gardens would not allow for a very large collection, steps are being taken to ensure that all the best varieties are included, along with outstanding new introductions as they become available.

The gardens are open to the public from 9 a.m. until sunset every day of the year, and there is no charge for entrance. During the summer months members of the Society will show visitors round, and organisations can have conducted tours by arrangement with the Secretary whose address is 26, Rusland Park, Kendal. Any member visiting the Northwest will thoroughly enjoy seeing this garden.

Geoffrey Yates.

#### 1980 YEAR BOOK CORRIGENDA

In the 1980 Year Book (Page 1) our President's name should have read Mr. C.D. Brickell V.M.H. The captions of plates II and III were transposed but the references to these plates in David McClintock's article were correct. The Editor apologises for any inconvenience or misunderstanding the errors may have caused.

#### 1981 YEAR BOOK

I find myself in sympathy with the Editor of "The Journal of the Cornwall Garden Society" when he writes - "The range of subjects we cover in this Journal is really quite wide but the number of contributors does not increase in line with the steady increase in membership."

Some people have said to me that they feel the Year Book now contains too many technical and scientific articles and too little of general interest. However, the contents of the Year Book reflect the material that I receive. In general, I do not ask selected people to write on particular subjects. Anyone is encouraged to submit articles on any subject which they think would be of interest to the members of the Society. Scientists are always keen to publish, but there seems to be a reticence on many people's part to write about their own experiences with heathers.

Please think it over and see if you cannot write an article; you may find it rewarding. I look forward to receiving your manuscripts by 30th September and I hope to produce a Year Book with something for everyone, on time, in 1981.

Bert Jones.

#### NATIONAL REFERENCE COLLECTION OF HEATHERS

At our Annual Conference in Weymouth last year, the South West local Group staged a display of as many cultivars of *E.ciliaris* and *E.x watsonii* as they could obtain after a long search through many nurseries. Most of the named plants were represented in this collection. These plants were given to the Society to provide propagating material for the National Reference Collection of heathers. Our Chairman, General Turpin, delivered the plants to Wisley in November, and we have received a letter of thanks from our

President, Mr. C.D. Brickell, who is of course, the Director of the RHS garden at Wisley. He tells us that the plants have been given the acquisition number 322-79.

WINTER FLOWERING HEATHER COMPETITIONS AT THE RHS SHOW - 19/20th  
FEBRUARY, 1980

Class 5 A heath or heather, in bloom, one plant. 4 Entries.

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|------------------------------|--|
| 1st. The Welcome Foundation. | <u>E.x darleyensis</u> 'Silberschmelze'.   |
| 2nd. Maj. Gen. P.G. Turpin.  | <u>E. carnea</u> 'Rubinteppich'.           |
| 3rd. Maj. Gen. P.G. Turpin.  | <u>E.x darleyensis</u> 'White Perfection.' |

Class 6. A heath or heather, in bloom, one vase. 31 Entries.

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|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1st. Maj. Gen. P.G. Turpin | <u>E.x darleyensis</u> 'White Glow'.  |
| 2nd. Maj. Gen. P.G. Turpin | <u>E.x darleyensis</u> 'Ghost Hills'. |
| 3rd. Sheffield Park.       | <u>E. lusitanica</u>                  |
| 4th. Maj. Gen. P.G. Turpin | <u>E.x darleyensis</u> 'J.W. Porter'. |

Class 7. A heath or heather shown for foliage effect, one plant. 7 Entries.

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|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1st. Mrs. E. Godbalt       | <u>Calluna vulgaris</u> 'Red Carpet'. |
| 2nd. Mrs. M. Bowerman      | <u>E. lusitanica</u> 'George Hunt'.   |
| 3rd. Maj. Gen. P.G. Turpin | <u>E. erigena</u> 'Golden Lady'.      |

Class 13. A tree or shrub grown under glass, one vase. 4 Entries.

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|---|-------------------------|
| 1st. Mr. R. Stephenson-Clarke (Borde Hill). | <u>E. canaliculata.</u> |
|---|-------------------------|

Thank you all for your support. It is most encouraging to see in this show the large number of entries in Class 6. I was unable to be present this time but apparently it was a splendid sight and competed well with the Heather Society stand, where John Hall of Windlesham Court Nurseries provided the following plants in full flower: E. carneas 'Ann Sparkes', 'Aurea', 'Cecilia M. Beale', 'Foxhollow Fairy', 'John Kampa', 'King George', 'Springwood White', 'Vivellii', 'Westwood Yellow', and E. darleyensis 'Silberschmelze'. Thank you also to the members who manned the stand over the two days - Maj. Gen. & Mrs. Turpin, Mr. & Mrs. Mayne, and Messrs. Gillespie, London, Taylor, and Wiseman.

Pamela Lee.

BOOK REVIEW - UNSER H ELDEGARTEN, WERNER DIT TRICH, KOSMOS-FLORARIUM,  
STUTTGART. (64 pages, DM 8.80).

Here is the fourth recent book in German on heathers and heather gardens. It is of a sort the Dutch have too, but we still lack - attractive, small, short, simple, limp-bound, relatively cheap - this one is embellished with plenty of colour photos. The advice given is entirely correct, even if it recommends pruning! The book is subtitled Layout and Maintenance, and the first 34 pages are devoted to this. It ends with an index and addresses of six nurseries, one in Holland, of nine garden shows, one in Holland, and of just the German Society under the heading of Specialist Societies. Before that, 21 pages are given to companion plants of all sorts, and the heathers are squeezed into six pages between the two. They include a striking photo

of 'Lyonesse', but that of Daboecia cantabrica is not noted as the 'Praegerae' it clearly is, and E. tetralix is E. ciliaris. E. x darleyensis is called Bruchheide, a new and seemingly inappropriate name, and is equated with E. purpurascens which is a synonym of E. carnea. 'Golden Glory' is used for what became 'Gold Turret', and only 100 cvs are allowed of Calluna vulgaris - would that were true! Why could the author not have checked with the German Society? For his book is otherwise commendable, apart from giving too little space to the actual heathers - Calluna 'Pilosa', 15 cm high with violet flowers is a plant I do not know.

It should be said that some space is also given to the Steppenheide, Chalk Heath, which normally had no heathers at all! But those who read German may like to add this book to their shelves; while those who live in Germany should certainly do so.

David McClintock.

#### GROUP NEWS

NORTH EAST A number of Heather Society enthusiasts, by invitation, paid a very enjoyable and instructive visit to the garden of Mr. & Mrs. J. Hall at Felton, Northumberland. This garden extends down a natural bank-side to the river and has been set out by our hosts to combine heathers, conifers, alpines and special shrubs, to give a varied display of flowers and foliage throughout the year. The garden has been formed by clearing a random woodland site and bringing in many tons of rock, forest bark, and woodland soil, transported from neighbouring woodland by personal effort. It was noted that the winding paths covered by forest bark were substantially free from weeds and made a charming contrast to the various beds.

Returning from this visit some of the party met for tea and discussion at the home of Mr. & Mrs. D. McArthur, 27 Cresswell Drive, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. (Tel. Gosforth 853760), when Mrs. D. McArthur kindly agreed to become the Chairman of our newly formed local group.

With a view to meeting other local members interested in joining this new group, we hope to have an informal meeting at 11.30 a.m. on 20th September 1980 at the Harlow Car Gardens, Harrogate (in the N.H.S. Meeting Hall) prior to the Northern Horticultural Society Meeting, when Mr. Geoffrey Yates will be speaking on heathers.

Edna Courtney, Hon. Sec.

NORTHERN (NEW YORKSHIRE) The Harlow Car group, in conjunction with the Northern Horticultural Society heather group, held its first meeting of the 1980 season in the Harlow Car library on Saturday March 22nd. Earlier in the week there had been widespread and heavy snow showers in the North of England. Fortunately main roads were clear and members from as far afield as Newcastle-upon-Tyne, York, Congleton and Stockport were able to make the journey by road. Harrogate escaped most of the snow and we were able to walk around the gardens and the heather trial ground, where the winter flowering heathers presented a mass of colour.

Our Chairman, Maj. Gen. Turpin gave a most interesting talk 'Hardy Heathers for the Garden' which he supported with some outstanding slides of considerable pictorial interest and high technical quality. Various species were shown growing in their natural moorland surroundings and in garden settings. The 'before and after' slides depicting

the creation of a large mixed heather bed in his garden were of considerable interest. General Turpin gave his selection of 25 cultivars of the species and hybrids that are readily available and stimulated some lively discussion. The list was as follows:-

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|----------------------------|--|
| <u>Calluna vulgaris</u>    | 'Anthony Davis', 'Beechwood Crimson', 'Elsie Purnell', 'Gold Haze',<br>'J.H. Hamilton', 'Kinlochruel', 'Serlei', 'Silver Queen', 'Sunset'. |
| <u>Daboecia cantabrica</u> | 'Praegerae'  |
| <u>Erica carnea</u>        | 'King George', 'Myretoun Ruby', 'Pink Spangles', 'Springwood White'  |
| <u>Erica cinerea</u>       | 'Atrorubens', 'Frances', 'P.S. Patrick'  |
| <u>Erica x darleyensis</u> | 'J.W. Porter', 'Silberschmelze'  |
| <u>Erica erigena</u>       | 'Superba'  |
| <u>Erica lusitanica</u>    |  |
| <u>Erica Tetralix</u>      | 'Pink Star'  |
| <u>Erica vagans</u>        | 'Mrs. D.F. Maxwell', 'St. Keverne'   |
| <u>Erica x watsoni</u>     | 'Dawn'   |

As usual the bring and buy sale was a success and we are grateful to General Turpin for donating some plants of 'Battle of Arnhem' to the sale.

The application of 'Casaron G' herbicide to the beds, paths and verges of the trial ground was completed in March and it is confidently anticipated that no weeds will put in an appearance during the 1980 growing season. Our recording ladies have now completed the recording of the later plantings and it is hoped that the results will be published as an addendum to the 'Heather Trials 1971-5'. All the trials plants that have survived are being retained as a reference collection until the proposed Northern Horticultural Society's collection has been propagated and planted in the Harlow Car Gardens.

Our future programme for 1980 is: On Saturday August 23rd at 2.30 pm. there is to be an escorted tour of the Harlow Car Gardens starting from the library. Then on Saturday September 20th at 2.30 pm. Geoffrey Yates will be giving a talk entitled 'New heathers for old' in the library at Harlow Car. Albert Julian.

MIDLANDS On the evening of Friday 21st March, 25 members met at 'Winterbourne' in Edgbaston and were shown a most interesting and enjoyable film of the Edinburgh Botanic Garden produced by the Bank of Scotland. Our thanks are due to Mr. David Radley for obtaining the film and to Mr. Bernard Everett for projecting it. After an interval for coffee and biscuits, we had a lively session of questions and answers, assisted by a panel comprising Harold Street, Ray Warner, and Robert Cole.

Future Plans - Sunday 28th September, 1.00 pm. with your picnic lunch, at Brookend Nursery, Welland, near Upton-on-Severn, by kind invitation of Mr. & Mrs. Kaye; and afterwards for tea at - Greenacres, Crossway Green, Nr. Kidderminster, by kind invitation of Mr. & Mrs. Everett.

Friday 21st November at 7.30 pm. at "Winterbourne" 56 Edgbaston Pk.Rd. Edgbaston, Birmingham for a talk entitled "Heatherscaping - an art form for the garden" given by Mr. Leighton Jones of Broughton Astley Nr. Leicester.

For further details of these events send a S.A.E. or tel. Shenstone 481183, The Spinney, Little Hay, Lichfield, Staffs. WS14 0QD.

Alan Dudley.

MID-SOUTHERN (NEW SOUTHERN) When we met at Dorking on 29th March, members were treated to a very comprehensive visual presentation of the heather world through slides taken by Maj. Gen. Turpin on his visits to gardens both in this country, Germany and Holland. At the end of the afternoon members visited the garden of Mr. & Mrs. Nicholson who have this past year completely replanted with a wide variety of young heather cultivars which all looked very healthy. We hope they invite us back again in a few years' time to see how the plants have developed!

On May 3rd, 26 members including a number who had never before attended a group meeting, were greeted by Mr. & Mrs. David McClintock at Platt, Kent. It was a cold day but after a hot cup of coffee, everyone felt ready to spend an hour exploring this large sloping garden, fascinating in its naturalness with late daffodils still blooming well. Members were able to see unusual plants that they would not have the opportunity of seeing elsewhere, and to compare the E.x darleyensis while still in flower. The experiment of growing the complete collection seems, however, only to prove that none of the new ones are worth naming, as they do not show any improvement as additions to the recently introduced named varieties which are indeed excellent plants.

After a sociable picnic in the house the whole party moved on to the garden at Great Comp, being opened especially for us by Mr. & Mrs. Cameron prior to their season of public open days (Fri., Sun., & Bank Hols. until 31st Oct). We were all most impressed by the new plantings since our last visit as a group nearly 3 years ago - much of it carried out by the owners, propagating from existing stock, and including now over 200 cultivars of heather. One member, so amazed at the amount of colour everywhere, felt that it must be a spring garden only, but was assured that the picture was just as good in July or September - such is the miracle of English gardens.

Our Chairman Maj. Gen. Turpin and his wife have invited us to see their garden at Cottswood near the village of West Clandon, Guildford at 2.30 pm. on August 16th. Please telephone me at Hindhead 4947 if you wish to come and I will send you a map with directions.

Future Plans 30th August - Please note that the S.W. Group are visiting Wisley by coach and this is a splendid opportunity to greet them. Bring your lunch and meet them at 12.30 pm. in the picnic area.

We have planned a full day's outing on September 27th. Please bring a picnic lunch and meet at 11 am. in the National Trust car park at the top of Tennyson's Lane, Blackdown, Haslemere. Using the minimum number of cars we will then drive to the nursery and show-garden of Michael Haworth-Booth at Roundhurst, returning to the car park for lunch on the adjacent common. We will then drive to Coldwaltham near Pulborough at the invitation of Mr. & Mrs. Bowerman, where you can join us at 3 p.m. if you are unable to meet earlier. Please telephone me if you plan to come.

Pamela Lee

SOUTH WEST On Sat. 22nd Mar., Mrs. R. Tanner (Rachel Maxwell) reminisced about her father D.F. Maxwell, in a talk given to the group at the village hall, Lytchett Matravers. Many ex Maxwell & Beale employees joined with us at this meeting to hear the history of this famous nursery. It was therefore appropriate that the meeting should have taken place at Lytchett Matravers, so close to the site of the nursery that gave birth to so many of our garden cultivars.

The Hillier's Arboretum near Romsey was visited on Sun, 27th Apr. and very pleasant weather enabled members to enjoy a relaxed tour of the collection of rare shrubs and trees. The heather garden, although small by comparison with the spaciousness of the Arboretum, was full of interest and included plants of the rarely grown Erica scoparia. Adjacent to the heather beds were beds of dwarf conifers, mulched unusually with pea gravel, providing a very pleasing effect. The afternoon was concluded by a visit to the Garden Centre area where members were able to purchase some of those plants noted during the earlier ramble.

Further Events: A reminder of the visit to Showering's Garden at Shepton Mallet on the 29th June with an invitation to picnic (with coffee kindly provided) in Bert & Diane Jones' garden nursery at West Camel, Nr. Yeovil. Wisley Trip: Aug. 30th - The coach from the Bournemouth & Poole area will not now be booked because of lack of support, and members should make their own way, meeting in the picnic area at 12.30 pm. Members wishing to take advantage of coaches from Somerset should contact Bert Jones or Douglas Chalk as soon as possible.

The final meeting of the year will be at Furzey Gardens, Minstead in the New Forest on Sat. 20th Sept. Members should meet in the car park at 2.0 pm. where Mr. Cole the owner will welcome us. The cost of entry is 65p. Finally, various events are already being planned for 1981 but I would still welcome your ideas & suggestions.

Phil Joiner.

#### DIARY OF EVENTS

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| June 29th     | South West Grp. - Visit to Showering's Gdn. Shepton Mallet. See Grp. News.          |
| Aug. 5th      | Heather Competitions, Propagation Display & Council Meeting. RHS Hall, Westminster. |
| Aug. 16th     | Southern Group - Visit to West Clandon, Guildford. See Group News.                  |
| Aug. 23rd     | Northern (New Yorkshire) Grp. - Visit to Harlow Car. See Group News.                |
| Aug. 30th     | South West Group - Visit to Wisley. See Group News.                                 |
| Sept. 12/15th | 10th ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Edinburgh. See page one.                                    |
| Sept. 13th    | ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, " "   |
| Sept. 20th    | Closing date for material for the Autumn Bulletin.                                  |
| Sept. 20th    | Northern (New Yorkshire) Grp. - Talk in Harlow Car Library. See Grp. News.          |
| Sept. 20th    | North East Group - Meeting at Harlow Car. See Group News.                           |
| Sept. 20th    | South West Group - Visit to Furzey Gardens. " " "                                   |
| Sept. 23/25th | Great Autumn Show, RHS Hall, Westminster. Tickets available from Hon. Sec.          |
| Sept. 27th    | Southern Group - Garden Visits. See Group News.                                     |
| Sept. 28th    | Midlands (new West Midlands) Grp. - Garden visits. See Group News.                  |
| Sept. 30th    | Closing date - Articles for the 1981 Year Book.                                     |
| Nov. 21st     | Midlands (new West Midlands) Grp - Meeting & Talk. See Group News.                  |