

THE HEATHER SOCIETY BULLETIN

Vol.3 No.1.

AUTUMN 1980

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

Autumn is a very beautiful time of the year as well as being a busy time for those of us who are gardeners. Many of the trees have already lost their leaves and we are busily tidying up before the winter weather sets in. Fortunately our winter heathers will soon be in their glory to cheer us on those cold grey days. We already have three *E.x darleyensis* cultivars coming into bloom, 'Ghost Hills', 'Darleydale' and 'White Perfection'; three *E.erigena* cultivars 'Irish Salmon', 'Irish Dusk', and 'Brian Proudley'; and also *E.carnea* 'Praecox Rubra', 'Jennifer Anne' and 'Thomas Kingscote'. All the plants are well budded this year so we can look forward to the winter months with anticipation.

Diane Jones.

The Administrative Office

Owing to increased charges and other factors the Council has decided that it would be in the best interests of the Society to discontinue the arrangement with Harvest House for the Administration of the Heather Society.

Mr. K.H. Farrah, a member of the Society, has kindly agreed to undertake the administrative work which Harvest House has been dealing with on our behalf, and the Council has appointed him Administrator with effect from 1st September, 1980.

The address of the administrative office is now:

7 Rossley Close, Highcliffe, Christchurch, Dorset. BH23 4RR.

All correspondence for the Heather Society should be sent to this address.

A.G.M. - Queen Margaret College, Edinburgh, 13th September, 1980

The President, Vice Presidents, Officers and the Auditor of the Society were all re-elected, as were the three members retiring by rotation, Mr. Stow, Maj.Gen. Turpin and Mr. Vickers. The Chairman reluctantly accepted the resignation of Mrs. A.C.R. Duvall as a member of the Council. He reported on the preparations being made for the Heather Collections at Wisley and Plymouth, and explained the reasons for our departure from Harvest House. In her report, the Hon. Secretary described the new administrative arrangements and gave the present membership figure as 920 including overseas members. She repeated her appeal for volunteers to add to the panel of speakers and for the formation of further local groups.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

I am sure that many of you who did not attend the 10th Annual Conference of the Society in Edinburgh would be interested to hear a little about it now, as it will be several months before the full report appears in the Year Book. All but four

of the 60 members were in residence and among these were two members from Ireland and one from Norway. Outdoor excursions on both afternoons and superb food kept everyone happy: we had sunshine for the visit to the Royal Botanic Garden and it was only towards the end of the tour of Tynninghame's extensive gardens, led by our hosts Lord and Lady Haddington, that fine rain set in. My personal impression was that the Conference was an outstanding success, combining as it did a varied and informative programme of lectures with excellent accommodation and smiling service - down to the last detail of the special "Heather Society Conference" printed menus.

Following my appeal for Group Organisers, I am happy to be able to give you the name of Mrs. E.B. Calvert of "Mimosa", 10 Manse Road, Newtownards, Co. Down, who is planning to organise some activities in Northern Ireland. Also anyone in the new Zone 10 (N. Thames) should get in touch with either Mr. A. Stow or Mr. D. Mayne (see Membership List) who are planning to start a "Home Counties North" group.

Pamela Lee.

HEATHER SOCIETY CONFERENCE 1981

The next Conference will be held during the weekend of September 11th/13th, 1981 at Telford Hall, University of Loughborough, Leicestershire. All arrangements are being planned by the Midlands Group and bookings may be sent now (£2 per mailing) to: Mr. & Mrs. A. Dudley, "The Spinney", Little Hay, Lichfield, Staffs. WS14 0QD. The booking charge is to cover administrative costs and is not a deposit on the Conference Fee. If an acknowledgement is required please include a S.A.E. Further details will be published in the Spring Bulletin.

SLIDE LIBRARY

Mr. David Small has kindly undertaken to take over the Slide Library from Mr. Neil Brummage, and all requests for slides should now be sent to: Mr. David Small, Denbeigh Heather Nurseries, All Saints Road, Creeting St. Mary, Ipswich, Suffolk. IP6 8PJ.

Neil Brummage and David Small have been busily going through the Society's Slide Library during the past six months and it is hoped to announce the revised structure of the Library in the Year Book. Slides are urgently needed of all named cultivars and should be full frame shots of a single mature plant.

R.H.S. SHOW - AUGUST 5th and 6th, 1980

Competitive Classes for Heathers from the Open.

Class 2. Erica vagans, one vase. 7 entries.

1st	Mrs. E. Godbolt.	'Birch Glow'
2nd	Mr. B.G. London	'Rubra'
3rd	Maj.Gen. P.G. Turpin	'Mrs. D.F. Maxwell'

Class 3. Calluna vulgaris, a single flowered coloured cultivar, one plant. 1 entry.

1st	Maj.Gen. P.G. Turpin	'Tenuis'
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Class 4. Calluna vulgaris, a single flowered coloured cultivar, one vase. 3 entries.

1st	Mrs. E. Godbolt	'Crowborough Beacon'
2nd	Maj.Gen. P.G. Turpin	'Fred J. Chapple'
3rd	Mr. D. McClintock	seedling.

Class 6. Calluna vulgaris, a double flowered coloured cultivar, one vase. 3 entries.

1st	Mrs. E. Godbolt	'Tib'
2nd	Maj.Gen. P.G. Turpin	'Tib'
3rd	Mr. B.G. London	'Tib'

Class 7. Calluna vulgaris, a single or double flowered white cultivar, one plant. 1 entry.

1st	Maj.Gen. P.G. Turpin	'Kinlochruel'
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Class 8. Calluna vulgaris, a single or double flowered white cultivar, one vase. 4 entries.

1st	Maj.Gen. P.G. Turpin	'Mair's Variety'
2nd	Mr. B.G. London	'Alba Plena'
3rd	Mr. D. McClintock	'Craig Rossie'

Class 9. Erica cinerea, any cultivar, one vase. 19 entries.

1st	Mr. B.G. London	Seedling
2nd	Mr. B.G. London	'Atrorubens'
3rd	Maj.Gen. P.G. Turpin	'Duncan Fraser'
4th	Maj.Gen. P.G. Turpin	'Heidebrand'
H.C.	Mr. B.G. London	Seedling

Class 11. Daboecia, any species, hybrid or cultivar, one vase. 7 entries.

1st	Mr. B.G. London	'Alba'
2nd	Maj.Gen. P.G. Turpin	'Globosa Pink'
3rd	Maj.Gen. P.G. Turpin	'Atropurpurea'

Class 12. Any Heather species or hybrid not specified above, one plant. 2 entries.

1st	Maj.Gen. P.G. Turpin.	<u>Erica x watsonii</u> 'Rachel'
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Class 13. Any Heather species or hybrid not specified above, one vase. 8 entries.

1st	Mr. D. McClintock	<u>Erica mackaiana</u> 'Donegal'
2nd	Maj.Gen. P.G. Turpin	<u>Erica x watsonii</u> 'H. Maxwell'
3rd	Mrs. E. Godbolt	<u>Erica ciliaris</u> 'Stoborough'
4th	Mr. B.G. London	<u>Erica tetralix</u> 'Alba Mollis'

Class 14. Any Heather, one vase, to be judged for foliage effect. 8 entries.

1st	Maj.Gen. P.G. Turpin	<u>Calluna vulgaris</u> 'Silver Queen'
2nd	Mrs. E. Godbolt	<u>Calluna vulgaris</u> 'Golden Feather'
3rd	Mr. B.G. London	<u>Calluna vulgaris</u> 'Anthony Davis'
4th	Mrs. E. Godbolt	<u>Calluna vulgaris</u> 'Silver Queen'
H.C.	Maj.Gen. P.G. Turpin	<u>Erica carnea</u> 'Foxhollow'

Class 15. Any Heather, one plant, to be judged for foliage effect. 2 entries.

1st	Maj.Gen. P.G. Turpin	<u>Erica erigena</u> 'Golden Lady'
3rd	Maj.Gen. P.G. Turpin	<u>Calluna vulgaris</u> f. <u>hirsuta compacta</u>

Class 16. Decorative Class - an arrangement of heathers suitable for a dressing table. 2 entries.

1st	Mrs. P.G. Turpin
2nd	Mrs. M. Boxall

The undiminished dedication of our Chairman and his wife to the advancement of our Society was evident from their graphic and meticulous exhibit demonstrating propagation techniques, which attracted so much public interest to the Heather Society stand at this important Show. Several members, Mr. J. Gillespie, Mr. B.G. London, Mr. D. Whisker and Mr. E. Wiseman, took turns with the Turpins over the two days to be 'on duty' there, and although I am sure they enjoyed it, we are nevertheless most grateful to them for giving their time so willingly.

Hon. Secretary.

R.H.S. SHOW - NOVEMBER 18th and 19th, 1980. In the Royal Horticultural Society's Competition for Ornamental Trees and Shrubs from the Open, to be held on the 18th and 19th November, 1980 in the Westminster Halls, there is a special Class for "A Heath or Heather judged for foliage effect, one vase". There is no charge for entries and those entering need not be members of the R.H.S. Exhibitors receive a free entry card to the Show. Schedules may be obtained from the Secretary, Royal Horticultural Society, P.O. Box 313, Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE.

We would like to encourage members to enter for this Competition, when there will be an opportunity of meeting other members of the Heather Society, convened for a Council Meeting in the afternoon of the 18th November.

A SPECIAL OFFER FOR MEMBERS

A new edition of David McClintock's "Guide to the Naming of Plants" (with special reference to heathers) had just been published. Many parts are entirely re-written; all the alterations to the Code of Nomenclature have been taken into account; the alterations in the naming of heathers have also been included and many explained. Whatever your own interest in heathers may be you will certainly find the naming of all plants easier to understand and more meaningful once you have read this booklet, and Nurserymen should certainly have a copy in their office. Finally, if you have a heather which you feel deserves a name, this booklet really should be compulsory reading.

In order to help reduce the cost of financing this Heather Society publication, we are offering a special "Publication Price" for orders received by 31st December this year. To make sure you do not miss this saving of 50p, fill in the order form NOW.

A.J. Huxley writing in Amateur Gardening about the first edition said "...undoubtedly the clearest exposition I have ever seen of the problem of plant names." Des Oliver.

"MRS. DELANY, HER LIFE AND HER FLOWERS" by RUTH HAYDEN

Many of our members will remember the fascinating talks which Ruth Hayden (a member who lives in Bath) gave at the Farnham Conference in 1975 and again last year at the Weymouth Conference about her very talented ancestor, Mrs. Delany (1700-1788). Ruth Hayden has spent many hours at the British Museum photographing Mrs. Delany's paper mosaic collection of flowers (including heathers) and last year was very honoured to be asked by the British Museum to write a book about the work of Mrs. Delany. The book has now been published by Colonnade Books (British Museum Publications Ltd.) Price £9.95. It is a beautifully produced book with 30 coloured photographs and many more black and white prints, telling of Mrs. Delany's interest in botany, and her life style as a member of the Court circle in the 18th century.

GROUP NEWS - MIDLANDS

In spite of the weather, a very successful Social Evening was held at "Winterbourne" on 31st May, attended by 33 members and friends, who expected to spend a sunny spring evening in the delightful gardens there. In the event, it was pouring with rain, so we drank a glass of sherry while David Radley, the Curator of the Gardens, gave an interesting talk on its history. Our hopes that the rain would cease were not fulfilled, but many of us braved the elements and accepted David's offer to take us on a conducted tour of the Gardens. Even under these conditions, the rain by now having

become quite heavy, the beauty of the Garden could be appreciated. On returning to the house, we enjoyed our excellent buffet meal, various ladies having brought a wide selection of savouries, salads and sweets. A subscription was paid by those not contributing in kind and, out of the proceeds, we were able to make a small donation to David for some addition to the Garden. Our gratitude must also be expressed to David for the excellent arrangements he has made for our use of the room for this event.

FUTURE EVENTS - Friday, 21st November, 7.30 p.m. at Winterbourne, 56 Edgbaston Park Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham. One of our members Mr. Leighton Jones of "Heatherscaping", Broughton Astley, Leicester, will give a talk entitled "Heatherscaping - an art form for the garden". Friday, 27th February, 1981, 7.30 p.m. at Winterbourne. Another of our members Mrs. Daphne Everett of "Greenacres Nursery", Crossway Green, Stourport-on-Severn has offered to talk to us and show slides, her chosen subject being "Famous Heather Nurseries - Famous Heather Names". Saturday, 16th May, 1981 at Winterbourne: a social evening and supper. In view of the successful event held last May at this ideal venue, it was generally agreed that we should repeat it in 1981. Please make a note of the date. Further details later.

Alan Dudley.

NORFOLK

As you will know from your Bulletins and Year Books, the Norfolk Group has enjoyed success over many years, bringing together local members to discuss anything pertaining to their favourite plants, arranging visits to gardens and nurseries etc.

Unfortunately, interest in the Group has been waning and although an attempt was made by David Small and myself to expand it into an East Anglian Group, this too received little support. It is therefore with regret that I announce the closure of the Norfolk Group. I am holding a stock of crockery etc. which we used at our meetings and would be grateful if Group members would contact me. Tel: Norwich 867141 so we can meet to discuss the disposal of them.

David Small and I would like to express our thanks to the few who did show an interest in the Group, and perhaps one day we can build again.

Jack London.

SOUTHERN

On the 16th August, Maj.Gen. and Mrs. Turpin and their daughter welcomed 40 members to their beautifully kept garden at Cottswood near West Clandon, Guildford.

The garden has been carefully set out with circular and oval beds of heathers, one being purely for winter flowering cultivars. As the plantings have been carried out at different times during the last 10 years and were labelled accordingly, it was easy and interesting to compare the rates of growth over the years and visualise what may happen in one's own garden. The most recently planted bed, which included many less common cultivars, was also very absorbing, and our Chairman and his family found themselves answering our questions continuously - many thanks to each of them.

We were also lucky that our visit coincided with a warm sunny day which showed the garden off to perfection. After refreshments kindly provided by Mrs. Turpin, a 'swop' of propagation material took place with some 20 different cultivars being supplied by various members. Then with a final close inspection of the propagation techniques on show, we returned home with our cuttings and our hopes for what they may grow into during the next decade in our own gardens.

Julia Johnson.

Next Meeting: Do try and join us when we open the season on March 7th with an afternoon in Dorking (see Diary) for tea and an exchange of views, with a short showing of slides of some exotic flora.

SOUTH WEST

On Saturday, 7th June, members visited the Wansdyke Nursery at Devizes. This dwarf conifer nursery was built up by Mr. H.J. Welch and is now under the new ownership of Mr. D. von Klaveren. We were shown round by the new owner and his assistant, Mrs. Hayward, who devoted two hours of their time to talk about the history of the nursery and to show us their collection of conifers in the various stages of cultivation. Sunny weather, and then a tea kindly provided by Mr. and Mrs. Perry of Market Lavington completed a memorable afternoon.

Showerings' Open Day at Shepton Mallet provided the venue for a Sunday afternoon visit. We met on the 29th June for a picnic lunch at Bert and Diane Jones' garden-nursery at West Camel and then continued to Shepton Mallet. This garden is one of rocks and water (on a sloping site) interplanted with various shrubs, thymes, heathers and conifers, and dominated by the Kilver viaduct of the old Somerset and Dorset railway. Although only open to the public for one day each year this garden is available for the recreational use of Showerings' employees every day - a pleasant thought in this industrial age.

On Saturday, 30th August, Mr. John Clayton, the public relations officer at Wisley, gave an afternoon of his time to show a party of South West and Southern Group members round these lovely R.H.S. gardens. We met for a picnic lunch near the car park and then began our conducted tour making our way eventually to the heather garden. The afternoon provided time for stimulating conversation on heather cultivation including the occasional argument on naming. David McClintock caused much amusement with his 'antics' in the heather beds! Our thanks go to John Clayton and I hope these inter-group meetings become less of a rarity.

Future Plans. Next year's first meeting will be at 2.00 p.m. in Lytchett Matravers village hall on Saturday, 21st March when I hope to have the attendance of two speakers, one of which Mr. W.S. Strain will give an illustrated talk on 'Cape heaths in their natural habitat'.

In the future we intend to abolish local section membership fees and to ask members wishing to be informed of meetings to send me (by the end of February each year) two S.A.E.s for circulars. All meetings will however be announced in the Bulletins and expenses incurred in arranging visits will be shared by those present on the day. I hope these arrangements will encourage more members to attend local meetings and share in personal contact that can only benefit the Society. As usual ideas for future meetings would be welcomed, and I look forward to your support.

Phil Joyner.

FAR WEST

On the afternoon of August 30th, we gathered together in Southern Hay, Exeter, to discuss and to try and identify the large bed of heathers planted there a few years ago, the planting plan apparently having been destroyed. The 16 members and two prospective members then went to tea at Lyalls Cottage, Dunchideock (our home) and discussed the future of the Group. It was agreed that during August 1981 (Saturday, 22nd) we would arrange a visit to Probus Gardens in Cornwall - details will be announced in the Summer Bulletin. We all agreed that it would be advantageous to form a committee at the next meeting and it is hoped that sufficient members will be willing to serve the Group in this capacity.

June Randall.

OVERSEAS - PACIFIC NORTHWEST (USA/CANADA)

Our A.G.M. was held on Saturday, July 19th at the Oregon State University campus, Corvallis, and attended by 34 members, family and friends. The officers re-elected were: Stuart Fraser - President; Alice Knight - Secretary/Treasurer; Dorothy Metheny - Corresponding Secretary; and Lloyd Eighme - Vice President. The resignation of Ken Wilson was reluctantly accepted, and Mack McPhee of Victoria was nominated as the new Vice-President. After an enjoyable and informative programme of talks the members adjourned to the Frasers' home in the country for dinner, and a tour of their charming garden. A plant auction was then held which generously helped funds. Fervent thanks are tendered to all the Frasers for the delicious dinner and for the arrangements for the meeting and the programme.

Dorothy Metheny.

ERICA CINEREA 'C.G.BEST' (A cultivar worth looking into)

1. When one seeks, one may find, usually low down, a leafy shoot which is half green and half cream vertically, suggesting chimaera. By no means all plants have it, but I have noticed it several times. The first was in my own garden, when the example was illustrated in colour by the RHS Journal in September 1971, the same photo being used in their 'Garden' last May.
2. What the RHS did not reproduce in May, although they were sent several photos of it, was what this shoot grew into, the cultivar now called 'Next Best'. This has leaves of every gradation between green and cream, most being a smoky creamy grey, varying with the season to pinkish or even red. The habit and the flower colour remain the same.
3. In 1976 a sport on 'C.G. Best' in Holland was named 'Yvonne'. This differed basically and most interestingly in having its corolla split into four equal segments, petals - the colour was the same. In my garden at least it differs also in its stiffer erecter growth. But I know of no other instance of this possible reversion to an ancestral form appearing other than as a seedling. (Incidentally an article on the subject of these heathers with split corolla is due out in the December issue of The Plantsman).
4. No seedling in this garden gets pulled up until it has revealed its identity. I have thereby gained many good plants. Three or four years ago one proved to be indistinguishable from 'C.G. Best' - it appeared some way from its putative parent. It even had a bicoloured shoot. It is very rare indeed for any cultivar to throw an identical seedling. This one was not 'C.G. Best', which is a clone, but being indistinguishable from it, it could not have a different name. Otherwise I would have called it 'Second Best'.
5. Since then I have had more such seedlings, culminating in no fewer than five in a bunch this year. At least one had a bicoloured shoot. It almost suggests starting a pure line.

Other cultivars have produced sports of value, white or coloured flowers, differing foliage etc, but can any rival the record of 'C.G. Best'?

We might learn more if members were to sow seed of it and see what came up. It would be even more useful if it came from a plant outside the range of another Bell Heather. Who has such an isolated plant?

David McClintock.

SCRAP BOWL - Titbits of news from members

More about Erica ciliaris - I was with Maxwell & Beale from 1940 to 1963 and cannot remember anything about 'Norden' or 'Rotundiflora', but 'Globosa' was always there. Mrs. Landor who was there before and during the war, cannot remember 'Norden' or 'Rotundiflora' either. John Deakin who came after the war, says he can remember having 'Rotundiflora' at Naked Cross. He thinks it was bought in from somewhere else. He describes it as having side branches in whorls at right angles to the main stem with distinct gaps between successive whorls. I remember 'Globosa' as being 18" in height, greyish green with slightly paler flowers than the type but more rounded. When picked, like other Erica ciliaris, they seem to shrink. I found it most difficult to get the true size of 'Egdon Heath', they were never as large when pressed, nor were the dead flowers on the plant the correct size.

Joyce Burfitt - Zone 12.

Heather as a Herb - When I was shopping in Liberty's in Regent Street the other day, I happened to be looking for some dried herbs, when I was surprised to see a large sack labelled "HEATHER". On examination the contents turned out to be a dried mixture of heather leaves and flower heads, among which I could recognise a number of Calluna flowers. I asked the assistant what the heather was used for and she explained that it was used in making up pot-pourri. This is the first time I have seen heather sold in this way. The full detail on the label was: "L'herbier de Provence s.a.r.l., caussade producteur - St.Remy-de-Provence. HEATHER 40gr. 85p."

Cherry Turpin - Zone 11.

Butterflies and Heathers - In September, hosts of Red Admiral butterflies settled on my heathers, mainly on my Erica vagans, completely ignoring the Sedums which they usually prefer. Is this unusual?

Jack London - Zone 9.

Heathers on Postage Stamps - In the summer 1979 Bulletin (vol. 2. No. 17) we described some stamp issues illustrating heathers. Thanks to our contemporary, the Newsletter of the German Heather Society, we can now add to the list a stamp issued by the Deutsche Bundespost Berlin (West Berlin) in 1975 showing Erica carnea ("Schneeheide") on the 35 + 15 pfennig value Christmas Charity Stamp.

Pat Turpin - Zone 11.

Frost Damage on Heathers - We had a very unusual winter here in New Hampshire, USA. There was absolutely no snow cover to protect my heathers. The only thing which saved us was the fact that the temperature only went down to zero, rather than the -20C we often get. I do not prune my heathers until the spring, which is certainly necessary in this climate. They all suffered about 80% winterkill on top, but now after pruning look great and are growing well. New plants last spring had a harder time, and the 80% top kill left very little to grow, but they too are reviving. I did lose two young plants, but consider myself lucky. From observation I would say that Calluna vulgaris 'Spitfire' is very hardy in this climate. I would classify 'Orange Queen' as the least hardy in my collection. I only have two Erica carneas, but all things considered would classify them as hardier than Calluna in this area.

Susan Kierstead, Zone 14.

DIARY OF EVENTS

- Nov. 21st. Midlands Group - Talk 'Heatherscaping, an art form for the Garden' see Group News.
- Jan. 10th CLOSING DATE for material for the Spring Bulletin.
- Feb. 17th Council Meeting & Heather Competitions, RHS New Hall, Westminster, 11.30am onwards.
- Feb. 27th Midlands Group - Talk 'Famous heather nurseries, famous heather names' see Group News.
- Mar. 7th Southern Group - Friends Meeting House, Butter Hill, South St., Dorking. 2 pm Social/slides.
- Mar. 21st South West Group - Talk 'Cape heaths in their natural habitat' see Group News.
- May 10th Southern Group - Visit to Dr. Violet Gray's garden, Southcote, Hindhead, 2.30 pm.
- May 16th Midlands Group - Social Evening - see Group News.