

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

A few weeks ago someone, not I hasten to add a member of The Heather Society, called here with a very dead heather. This was still in a ball of the soil in which it had once grown. They wanted to know what had killed it. I was unable to give them a definite answer. Fortunately the specimen was in a stout cardboard box, and as soon as our visitor had left, the whole parcel was consigned to a very hot bonfire before it had the chance to infect our plants.

It should not be necessary to say this to members of the Heather Society, but please do not take dead or diseased plants to a knowledgeable friend or nurseryman for diagnosis. They will almost certainly be unable to make a definite identification, and worse, you are putting their plants at risk. If you must seek help, ask them to call and see your ailing plants in your garden. However, it is far better to make use of the service which is provided by the Royal Horticultural Society for its members - they are well equipped for such a service. (The Heather Society is affiliated to the R.H.S.)

Whilst on the subject of the R.H.S., our Hon. Secretary, Pamela Lee asks me to remind you about the R.H.S. Show on August 11th/12th which includes 12 classes for heathers in the competitions and a flower arrangement class for heathers. (A few schedules are available from Mrs. Lee or you can write to the R.H.S.) It would be a good advertisement for our Society if these were well supported this year.

Diane Jones.

11th ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 11th/14th SEPTEMBER, 1981

The Conference Centre will be at the Telford Hall of Residence, Loughborough University of Technology, Loughborough, Leicester.

Advanced bookings should already have been made as advertised in the Spring Bulletin. Those who have already booked should, by now, have received full details and will know the Conference fees should be sent to: Mr. & Mrs. Alan Dudley before the 31st July, 1981.

At the date of this bulletin, there may still be places available, so please send your booking fee of £2.00 to Mr. & Mrs. Dudley, The Spinney, Little Hay, Lichfield, Staffs. Full details will then be sent to you.

The scale of charges is:

Residents :	Friday p.m. to Monday a.m.	£54.50
	Friday p.m. to Sunday (inc. Luncheon)	£46.50
	Friday p.m. to Sunday (not inc. Luncheon)	£40.50
Non-Residents :	Daily charge inc. Coffee, Luncheon & Dinner	£14.50

N.B. Coach charges for both Garden Visits are included in these prices.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1981

The Annual General Meeting of the Heather Society will be held during the Conference in the Telford Hall, University of Loughborough, Leicestershire, on Sunday, 13th September at 11.15 a.m. The Agenda for the Meeting is enclosed with this issue of the Bulletin.

Arrangements are being made to hold the 1982 Conference in the Lake District. Accommodation has been reserved at the Conference Centre of the University of Lancaster for the weekend, Friday, 3rd September to Monday, 6th September. Mr. Frank Culley, "Fairfield", 10 Jefferson Drive, Ulverston, Cumbria. LA12 9LU, a member of the Council has agreed to be responsible for the organisation of the Conference. Further details about booking arrangements will be published in the next Bulletin.

R.H.S. AWARDS to HEATHERS

Among recent awards to plants published in the Proceedings of the Royal Horticultural Society were the following heathers:

25th September, 1979 Calluna vulgaris 'My Dream', Award of Merit.

25th September, 1979 Calluna vulgaris 'Schurig's Sensation', Certificate of Preliminary Commendation.

31st March, 1981 Erica erigena 'Irish Dusk' Certificate of Preliminary Commendation

R.H.S. Show, FEBRUARY 17th/18th, 1981

Competitive Classes for Ornamental Plants from the Open

CLASS 5 A Heath or Heather in Bloom, one plant. Number of entries : 4

1st Maj.Gen. P.G. Turpin. E. Carnea 'Cecilia M. Beale'

2nd Wellcome Foundation. E. x darleyensis 'Silberschmelze'

3rd Wellcome Foundation. E. x darleyensis 'Arthur Johnson'

CLASS 6 A Heath or Heather, in Bloom, one vase/bowl. Number of entries : 28

1st B.G. London. E. carnea 'December Red'

2nd Maj.Gen. P.G. Turpin. E. lusitanica

3rd B.G. London. E. Carnea, seedling

4th B.G. London. E. x darleyensis 'Ghost Hills'

H.C. Maj.Gen. P.G. Turpin. E. x darleyensis 'White Glow'

CLASS 7 A Heath or Heather shown for Foliage Effect, one plant. Number of entries : 3

1st B.G. London. Calluna vulgaris 'Wickwar Flame'

2nd Maj.Gen. P.G. Turpin. E. lusitanica 'George Hunt'

3rd Maj.Gen. P.G. Turpin. Calluna vulgaris, f. hirsuta compacta

CLASS 15 A Tree or Shrub grown under glass, one vase.

2nd R. Stevenson Clarke. E. canaliculata

HEATHER SOCIETY STAND

6 Large Bowls. Calluna 'Gold Haze', 'John F. Letts', and 'Robert Chapman'.

E. carnea 'March Seedling' and 'Myretoun Ruby'. E. x darleyensis 'Arthur Johnson'.

4 Small Bowls. E. carnea 'Ann Sparkes', 'Heathwood', 'King George' and 'Vivelli'.

2 Vases. Calluna 'My Dream' and 'Schurig's Sensation', picked in September 1980 and preserved in a Deep-Freeze.

3 Heather Flower Arrangements. The exhibit was awarded a R.H.S. Flora Medal.

Windlesham Nurseries kindly lent the plants for the containers. Our thanks go to Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Turpin and to the following members who helped them on the stand - Mr. & Mrs. Mayne, Mr. J.W. Gillespie, Mr. B.G. London, Mr. D. Whisker and Mr. E. Wiseman.

### CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW 1981

At site 94 in the Marquee the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (N.C.C.P.G.) staged an exhibit, showing a diversity of interesting plants are in cultivation, which are in need of protection. Among the plants exhibited was a specimen of the clone of Erica x williamsii, which is the only known authentic plant of this hybrid still growing in the wild, anywhere in the world. The plant was lent to the N.C.C.P.G. by the Chairman of the Heather Society.

### GROUP NEWS

#### MIDLANDS

On the evening of 27th February, 1981, 24 members gathered at Winterbourne to hear Mrs. Daphne Everett give her talk entitled "Famous Heather Nurseries - Famous Heather Names". This was a most interesting and instructive talk, during which we learned the history behind a number of the well known nurseries and the origins of many of the Heathers in common use.

Daphne had obviously gone to a lot of trouble in her researches and revealed much information which was new to most of our members. A most successful evening.

**FUTURE EVENTS** - On Sunday, 23rd August at 12.45 p.m. we will meet at "Crail Nursery", Newstead Abbey, access being through the main gates of Newstead Abbey Park, on the west side of the A 60 about 10 miles north of Nottingham. (If travelling north, it is just beyond "The Hutt" (A Berni Inn). Mention of "Heather Society Visit" should obtain access through the gates. We shall be able to visit Crail Nursery itself, which is run by Mr. & Mrs. Lunn, by kind permission of the owners, Mr. & Mrs. Groome. We will also be able to visit the magnificent heather garden which adjoins the Nursery where we have permission to eat our picnic lunch.

Later in the afternoon we will move on to Mr. & Mrs. Rope's home at 38 Vernon Crescent, Ravenshead, where we have been invited to have a cup of tea. Afterwards, if time permits, anyone wishing to do so may visit Mr. Arthur Annabel's Nursery which is not far away.

On Friday, 20th November, 7.30 p.m. at Winterbourne, one of our members from Leicester, Mr. Julian Swain, has promised to arrange a talk and demonstration on 'Propagation'. This is a subject of interest to most of us and should promote a good discussion. (Winterbourne is situated at 56 Edgbaston Park Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.) Further details from: Alan Dudley, The Spinney, Little Hay, Lichfield, Staffs. Tel: Shenstone 481183. Alan Dudley.

#### HOME COUNTIES NORTH GROUP

The inaugural meeting was held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Stow on Saturday, April 11th. Although the attendance was smaller than expected, it was agreed by those present that a further meeting should be arranged and this will be at Kew Gardens on Saturday, August 22nd.

The meeting place will be at the main gate at 2.30 p.m.

#### SOUTHERN

A small group gathered on March 7th at the Friends Meeting House in Dorking to see the transparencies which Maj. Gen. Turpin has added to his collection over the past year showing Heather Society personalities, heathers and events, including the Edinburgh Conference. In complete contrast, the Chairman then treated us to a showing of some of the exotic plants and

highly coloured flowers which he had so skilfully photographed at different times of the year, by day and by night, in Malaysia, with an interesting anecdote accompanying many of them.

On Sunday, May 10th, some 30 members and visitors from the S.W. Group enjoyed a programme of garden visits in the Hindhead area, and were welcomed first by Mrs. Pamela Lee and her family with a selection of 'house' wines and beers. The day had started wet but now the sun bathed the garden, which is sheltered and framed on all sides by pine-birch woods. Well-positioned was a magnificent Pieris 'Forest Flame' showing no sign of the frost-damaged tips which many of these plants suffered earlier in the month. The house, 'Birches', clothed in Wistaria, creepers, honeysuckles and Chaenomeles is surrounded by colourful flower beds beyond which the lawns blend into heather-fringed woodland.

Here many of the original trees have been replaced by azaleas, rhododendrons, brooms and specimen trees, including Deodara cedar and very large amelanchiers. Bilberry ground cover is gradually being pushed back for plantings of heather, among which a 3ft specimen of 'Estrella Gold' has produced some typically sparse flowers and E. x Stuartii 'Irish Lemon' bore globe-like tips lighting up the plant as if in flower.

The garden lends itself to imaginative ideas and much re-shaping is being initiated, including a rockery for ericaceous plants and the excavation for a pool and waterfall. Along the length of the house a recently constructed terrace is now well clothed with rock plants and dwarf conifers, but obviously the 5ft wide Cistus lusitanicus growing happily through a 2" hole in the concrete has been there for some time! Nearby a large Acer 'Dissectum Atropurpureum' comfortably graces the front of the summer house. There were signs of much bird activity with many of the dozen different shaped nesting boxes, built by Mr. Lee, occupied, and indeed the garden had a peaceful air as members relaxed with their picnics on the lawn, enjoying the opportunity to seek advice and exchange views on garden topics.

A mile away Dr. Violet Gray's house nestles in a wooded area of Hindhead, with an old established garden of heathers and ericaceous plants. Among large rhododendrons and tree heaths stands a stately Pieris about 10ft tall with a spread of over 15ft, whose bright red tips again were undamaged by frost. Also admired were large shrubs of Enkianthus Campanulatus and Vaccinium corymbosum in full bloom. Every inch of this secluded sloping garden was covered with mature plantings of heathers but some areas had been cleared and replaced by more recent cultivars.

This garden was the venue for one of the first meetings of the Society some 20 years ago and was the birthplace of the Southern Group. It is the home of a Cape Heath collection begun by the late Dr. Ronald Gray: under glass in three 'treasure houses' are species and hybrids representing part of the vast number of Erica species growing wild in South Africa. Many of these beautiful plants were in flower and of particular interest was the blue-grey foliaged Erica glauca 'Elegans' whose flowers were unusual in having light pink sepals engulfing a dark corolla. The rarely grown European heath Erica multiflora was established in a tub outside and appeared to be completely at home there.

While enjoying a splendid tea, members were able to gaze over a garden where heather cultivars have become truly naturalised - many of them had been planted before the Heather Society was born - and were the inspiration which led the owners of 'Southcote' to help form the Society in 1963. Such gatherings are invaluable for the healthy development of our Society, as not only are they an opportunity to renew old friendships but they enable many members to meet for the first time. The afternoon was concluded by some of the party visiting a large Haslemere garden, owned by Mr. A. Birch and planted in Victorian times, with a great variety of trees and shrubs. It had become very neglected and the Hon. Secretary has spent much of the winter helping him to restore it to its former glory and has, inevitably, introduced a planting of heathers!

Roy Turner and Phil Joyner.



Next Meeting: On Sunday, August 9th at 10.45 a.m. a visit has been arranged to Claremont Landscape Garden, south of Esher and on the east side of the A307 (no access from A3). This is the oldest surviving English landscape garden and includes a lake, island with pavilion, grotto, turf amphitheatre, viewpoints and avenues. A guided tour has been arranged for 11.00 am sharp. Light refreshments are available and members can bring their own picnic lunch. We will leave the gardens at about 2.00 p.m. to drive the short distance to Danes Cottage, Oxshott, home of Brig. and Mrs. Lucas Phillips, who have kindly invited us to spend the afternoon with them.

Future Plans: On Sunday, 27th September at 3.00 p.m. Mr. and Mrs. Nicholson have invited the Group to visit their recently planted heather garden at Farm Cottage, Westcott Road, Dorking. They have a very large collection of named cultivars. If anyone would like a sketch map for either of these two visits, please telephone me on Hindhead 4947.

Pamela Lee.

### SOUTH WEST

The first meeting of 1981 was at Lytchett Matravers on Saturday, 21st March, and fortunately this was an indoor meeting as it was blowing a gale and pouring with rain outside! Mr. W.S. Strain gave us an excellent illustrated talk on Cape Heaths in their natural habitat - about 30 members were present. Mr. Strain has given some 500 talks in the past and this was his last talk, as failing eyesight will prevent him from lecturing in the future. I am therefore extremely grateful to him for giving us an excellent afternoon with many superb slides. Thanks are also due to Mrs. Joyner Str. and Miss Joyce Burfitt for the refreshments.

The second meeting of the year was at Hyde Crook near Dorchester, the home of Major P.R.A. Birley. We were shown round this predominantly wooded garden by Maj. Birley, and although the afternoon was dull, the Magnolias were marvellous. The members also enjoyed a tantalising view of the orchid house with many orchids in flower.

It is regretted that the visit planned for Saturday, 4th July to Miss Barbara Ellis' nursery at West Kington has had to be postponed, but it is hoped to arrange this for next year.

Future Plans: On Saturday, 18th July, Douglas Chalk one of our nurseryman members has arranged an afternoon of visits in the area around Bridgwater in Somerset. The details are:

1.15 p.m. Somerset College of Agriculture, Cannington, 4 miles west of Bridgwater on A 39.

Members may arrive early at the College to eat their picnic lunches.

2.00 p.m. Meet in the College car park to begin a tour of the College's Amenity Gardens and glasshouses (including the heather garden.)

4.00 p.m. Depart from Cannington for Polden Acres Gardens, Edington, Douglas Chalk's nursery. Edington is one mile north of A39 between Bridgwater and Glastonbury (approx. 10 miles from Cannington.)

4.30 p.m. Tea at 'Polden Acres' followed by a tour of the gardens and nursery. (Douglas Chalk has provided a map for these visits, so please send a SAE to me for a copy.)

On Saturday, 5th September a full day 'Field Trip' to Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour has been arranged by two of our Group members. Mr. and Mrs. Parkyn from Poole are part-time wardens of Brownsea Island and will be showing us around. Boat trips are available from Poole quay, where there is adequate parking, every half hour from 10.00 a.m. Members should meet on Brownsea Quay by 11.30 a.m. The adult return fare is £1.50 + 50p landing fee (the landing fee will be waived for N.T. members who show their membership card). A complete circuit of the N.T. section will take 2-3 hours and members should wear suitable shoes and clothing for walking. Please send a SAE for further details.

I shall look forward to meeting members at some or all of these venues. Phil Joyner.

## OVERSEAS - PACIFIC NORTHWEST (USA/CANADA)

Our A.G.M. will be held in Seattle, WA on Saturday, August 22nd at 11.00 a.m. followed by a slide show by Art Dome. After lunch Joe and Jean Witt will show us slides of their horticulturally fascinating trip last fall to New Zealand. At 3.00 p.m. we will be escorted by Dering Marrett from Edmonds WA to see the new heather plantings at the Childrens' Orthopaedic Hospital. Then at 4.00 p.m. at the University of Washington Arboretum, Dr. Harold B. Tukey Jr., Director of the U. of W. Arboreta and the Center for Urban Horticulture will give a talk on this unique project. There will then be time for participants to visit the new heather bed and other features of interest in the Arboretum before a late afternoon break.

On Sunday, August 23rd, members will be welcome to visit my own garden.

Dorothy Metheny.

## SCRAP BOWL - Titbits of news from members

Biological control of Phytophthora cinnamoni ? As you may remember I was the first to blame Phytophthora cinnamoni for the mystery deaths in heather long ago. It had been recognised in nursery stocks but the assumption was that it was wiped out in open ground and plunge beds during the winter. Of course this was a fallacy.

Attempts to eradicate it from the open ground have all failed, though sometimes after drastic treatments there are no signs for a few years. For a long time I have thought that the answer will eventually prove to be a massive competing population in the soil of fungi and/or bacteria.

The first confirmation of this that I have seen is in an article by David Hayman in the 'Plantsman' for March 1981. I quote from page 219 "The possibility of biological control of some plant diseases is suggested by data showing inhibition of certain root-pathogenic fungi by mycorrhizal fungi."

Don Richards, Cumbria.

(Herr Brose hinted at the possibility of biological control of fungal pathogens in the 1980 Year Book p. 35, but Dr. Reed does not mention the subject in his "treatise" on mycorrhiza in the 1981 Year Book. As Don Richards himself writes "... the composition of soil populations is beyond our ability to comprehend to date." Ed.)

Talks about heathers. I can hear some of you saying 'he's back on his hobby horse again' ! but letters received from horticultural societies I have talked to recently have said "I'm certain that you convinced our members who garden on chalk that they can grow heathers successfully if you choose the right types." and "We all learned such a lot about a group of plants about which most of us knew so little."

For such a talk, good slides are essential (the Society's slide library may be of help here) also plants or flower sprays if you have these available, and a tray of cuttings if you include a section on propagation. Books on heathers are always of interest to the audience and do take some Heather Society leaflets with you - joining the Society is the way to learn more!

On a number of occasions, after getting permission from the Secretary, I have invited a friend who has a nursery nearby to bring a selection of heathers for display and sale. This is very popular and often a starting point for a new heather enthusiast.

John Bridgland.

Favourite cultivars. In 1964 fifteen people were asked to make a list of their ten favourite heather cultivars and the results of this survey were given in the Year Book for that year. In the autumn of 1975 Arnold Stow carried out a poll in which he asked members to name their three favourite plants, and he published his 'top ten' in the 1976 Year Book. The two lists are reproduced below:

1964

1975

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <u>Erica vagans</u> 'Mrs. D.F. Maxwell'    | 1. <u>Calluna vulgaris</u> 'H.E. Beale'     |
| 2. <u>(Calluna vulgaris)</u> 'H.E. Beale'     | 2. <u>Erica vagans</u> 'Mrs. D.F. Maxwell'  |
| 3. <u>(Erica carnea)</u> 'Springwood White'   | 3. <u>Erica carnea</u> 'Pink Spangles'      |
| 4. <u>Erica carnea</u> 'King George'          | 4. <u>(Erica carnea)</u> 'Springwood White' |
| 5. <u>(Erica carnea)</u> 'Vivellii'           | <u>(Calluna vulgaris)</u> 'Beoley Gold'     |
| <u>(Calluna vulgaris)</u> 'Alportii'          | 6. <u>(Daboecia cantabrica)</u> f. alba     |
| 7. <u>(Daboecia cantabrica)</u> 'Praegerae'   | <u>(Erica carnea)</u> 'Ann Sparkes'         |
| <u>(Erica cinerea)</u> 'Golden Drop'          | <u>(Erica carnea)</u> 'Vivellii'            |
| <u>(Erica erigena)</u> 'Brightness'           | <u>(Calluna vulgaris)</u> 'Spring Cream'    |
| <u>(Erica x darleyensis)</u> 'Arthur Johnson' | <u>(Daboecia x scotica)</u> 'Jack Drake'    |
| <u>(Erica x darleyensis)</u> 'Silberschmelze' |   |

It is noticeable that the first three plants in the 1964 list fill three of the first four places in the 1975 list, and further that E. carnea 'Vivellii' was joint fifth in 1964 and joint sixth in the 1975 list. It seems that in both polls most people agreed about the top places but there was less agreement about the choices to fill the lower places. (This may be partly due to some recent introductions in the 1975 list.)

I wonder what the result would be if we held a similar poll in 1986? Ed.

Successful Composting

Garotta Products Ltd., have recently produced a completely revised edition of their booklet 'Successful Composting' and have introduced an advice service. A free copy of the booklet is available if a second class stamp is sent to:

Station Mills,  
Bute Street,  
Luton, Beds.  
LU1 2HE.

## DIARY OF EVENTS

- July 18th South West Group - Visits to Cannington & Edington - See Group News.
- August 9th Southern Group - Garden visits - See Group News.
- August 11th COUNCIL MEETING - R.H.S. New Hall, Westminster.
- August 11/12th R.H.S. Summer Flower Show Heather Competition, R.H.S. New Hall, Westminster.
- August 22nd Farther West Group - Visit to Probus Gardens in Cornwall (Details from June Randall. Tel: Kennford 832426)
- August 22nd Home Counties North Group - Visit to Kew Gardens 2.30 p.m. (meet at main gate).
- August 23rd Midlands Group - Garden visits - See Group News.
- Sept. 5th South West Group - Visit to Brownsea Island - See Group News.
- Sept. 11/14th ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Loughborough University.
- Sept. 13th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. Loughborough University.
- Sept. 19th CLOSING DATE for material for the Autumn Bulletin.
- Sept. 27th Southern Group - Garden visits - See Group News.
- Sept. 30th CLOSING DATE for articles for the 1982 Year Book.
- Nov. 20th Midlands Group - Talk/Demonstration on Propagation - See Group News.
- Nov. 24th COUNCIL MEETING - R.H.S. New Hall, Westminster.
- Nov. 24/25th R.H.S. Flower Show, Ornamental Plant Competition, including a Class for Heathers.