

## THE HEATHER SOCIETY BULLETIN

Vol. 3 No. 7.

AUTUMN 1982

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

I hope all our members have enjoyed their holidays and gardens through the summer months and are full of energy for the autumn 'tidying' which we all hope to complete before the beginning of the winter. The winter-flowering heathers are well budded this year to bring us colour and cheer through the grey cold days ahead.

Group activities for this year will be coming to an end shortly. I hope they have been well supported and that new members have found them enjoyable and stimulating. We learn so much from one another's experiences and difficulties in growing heathers, from the differing styles of gardening, and we make new friends. Our Annual Conference is also where we make new friends - this year we were delighted to meet Mrs. Petterson again from Norway, and to meet for the first time Mr. Stuart Fraser from Oregon U.S.A. who is the President of the Pacific North-West Heather Society which has members in the U.S.A. and Canada.

Diane Jones.

### A.G.M. - Lancaster University, 5th September 1982

The President, Vice-Presidents, Officers, Council Members and the Auditor of the Society were all re-elected as were the three Council Members retiring by rotation, Mrs. M. Bowerman, Mr. A. Julian and Mr. E. Wiseman. Mrs. D. Jones was re-elected, having been co-opted during the previous year. A new member of Council, Mrs. D. Everett, was elected, proposed by Mr. A. Dudley and seconded by Mr. H. Street.

In her report, the Hon. Secretary told the meeting that the membership of our Society continues to grow steadily - we now have 1500 members, and a new Group is being formed in Essex. An up to date membership list will be published each year and posted to members with the summer bulletin. Enquiries continue to come in for members to give talks about heathers and heather gardening which shows an increasing interest in the subject.

The Hon. Treasurer presented the Society's accounts for the year ending 31st December 1981 and a brief summary is included in this report. If any member would like a full copy please write to the Hon. Treasurer with a S.A.E.

### Summary of the Accounts for the year 1981

INCOME	Subscriptions, donations and Tax rebates on covenants	£	3,772
	Profit from sales of publications etc.		593
	Credit balance from 1981 Conference		39
	Investment and bank interest		580
	Miscellaneous		145
		£	5,129
EXPENDITURE	Year Book, Bulletins and Postage	£	1,566
	Administration		1,114
	Miscellaneous		169
		£	2,849
	EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		2,280
		£	5,129

The Balance Sheet shows a credit balance in the accumulated funds at 31st December 1981 of £7,273.

### Treasurer's Report contd.

A question was asked about the comparatively large excess of income over expenditure. The Hon. Treasurer explained that a reserve was necessary to offset rising costs and to make it possible to keep the membership subscription at the present level for as long as possible. There would also be fairly heavy expenditure on the publication of the International Register for which we are responsible as the International Registration Authority for heathers, and the publication of the second Year Book index (covering the second 10 years of the Year Book) to be sent to members with the 1983 Year Book. A substantial reduction in expenses has been possible thanks to the work of our Hon. Administrator and other members who help in various ways.

### 13th ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 9th-12th September 1983

As announced in the Summer Bulletin, arrangements are being made to hold the 1983 Conference at the Falmouth Hotel, Falmouth, Cornwall, for the weekend of Friday 9th September to Monday 12th September. A provisional price for Friday/Monday will be in the region of £55. This price will not include the cost of lunch on the Saturday or Sunday - restaurant lunches, bar lunches or snacks will be available in the Hotel to suit members' personal choice. Reserve these dates in your 1983 diary now!

Further details will be published in the Spring Bulletin, but bookings may now be sent (£2 per mailing) to Mrs. June Randall, Lyalls Cottage, Dunchideock, Nr. Exeter, Devon. The booking charge is to cover administrative costs and is not a deposit on the Conference. Cheques should be made payable to "Heather Society Conference".

### 1983 SUBSCRIPTIONS & COVENANTS

All subscriptions are due by 1st January. These are unaltered again this year - £3 for an individual membership and £4 for a joint family membership or for business organisations. Unless you already have a bankers order in operation you will receive a renewal form with this mailing, and please return it before it is overlooked! The cost of reminders is an unwelcome waste of our funds. Again, to save expense, no receipts will be sent unless you enclose a SAE - please accept the receipt of the Spring mailing as an acknowledgement.

COVENANTS are sometimes confused with Bankers Orders. Subscriptions cannot be paid by signing a Covenant. For regular annual payments by your bank, a Bankers Order is needed. By signing a Covenant you enable the Society to reclaim tax from the Income Tax Authorities. The practical effect of this is that the Society benefits by over a pound on an individual subscription and by nearly two pounds on a joint subscription. If you have not yet signed a Covenant please do so now and enable the Society to obtain full benefit from your subscription.

If you would like a Bankers Order form or a Covenant form to be sent to you, please tick the appropriate box on the subscription renewal form.

Ken Farrah

### SECRETARY'S NOTES

Photo Album. Delegates to the Lancaster Conference will know that I have begun to assemble photographs of Heather Society activities, personalities and heather gardens at Conferences and Group meetings into albums. I have now completed the first one - including the captions - but there are many gaps in this photographic history. With a view to making a much more comprehensive record, I appeal to members to send me copies of prints (or prints from slides) which I would return if not used. I particularly need pictures taken during Conferences prior to 1977 and recent ones from other Groups. The quality of the photograph is not as important as its historic value, although of course the aim is to make it an attractive record for posterity.

Starred Gardens. Before the 1983 membership list is published, Ken Farrah would welcome your confirmation that you wish to add, retain or remove this indication that other members are invited to visit your garden. I suggest that a telephone number be added to your address so that appointments can be made.

Hon.Sec.

## Royal Horticultural Society's Summer Show - Heather Competitions

The R.H.S. Summer Show was held on the 10th and 11th August. The Heather Competition attracted 93 entries in the 12 Classes from 14 exhibitors - greater support than for several years. This was no doubt partly due to the weather which had caused heathers to come into flower at least three weeks earlier than usual in most places. In normal years the present date of the competition is too early for the best of the Callunas. It was encouraging that there were six entries in the Class for "An arrangement of heathers in a basket", one from Mr. Michael Upward, which should give a lead to some of our men members to enter for this Class.

### Results of the Competition.

- Class 1. **THREE DISTINCT HEATHERS IN BLOOM**, one vase/bowl of each (5 entries)
1. Maj.Gen.P.G. Turpin. E. vagans 'Mrs. D.F.Maxwell'  
Calluna f.alba.  
E.ciliaris.
  2. Mrs. M. Chapman Calluna 'C.W.Nix'  
Calluna 'Silver Knight'  
E.cinerea 'Hookstone White'
  3. Mrs. D. Everett Daboecia 'Alba'  
E.cinerea 'C.D.Eason'  
E.vagans 'Cornish Cream'
- Class 2. **ERICA VAGANS**, one vase/bowl (11 entries)
1. Maj.Gen. Turpin E.vagans 'T.C.14'
  2. Mr.R. Foden E.vagans 'Mrs. D.F. Maxwell'
  3. Mr. D. McClintock E.vagans seedling
  4. Mr. D. Mayne E.vagans unnamed
- Class 3. **CALLUNA VULGARIS**, a single flowered coloured cultivar, one vase/bowl. (9 entries)
1. Maj.Gen. Turpin Calluna 'Silver Stream'
  2. Mr. Mayne Calluna 'Silver Cloud'
  3. Mr. Foden Calluna 'Silver Queen'
  4. Maj.Gen. Turpin Calluna 'Almi'
- Class 4. **CALLUNA VULGARIS**, a double flowered coloured cultivar, one vase/bowl (4 entries)
1. Mr. Mayne Calluna 'Tib'
  2. Mr. B.G. London Calluna 'Tib'
  3. Maj.Gen. Turpin Calluna 'J.H. Hamilton'
- Class 5. **CALLUNA VULGARIS**, a single or double flowered white cultivar, one vase/bowl. (9 entries)
1. Dr. V.H. Gray Calluna 'August Beauty'
  2. Maj.Gen. Turpin Calluna 'Mair's Variety'
  3. Mrs. Chapman Calluna 'Hammondii'
  4. Maj.Gen. Turpin Calluna 'Hammondii'
- Class 6. **ERICA CINEREA**, any cultivar, one vase/bowl. (13 entries)
1. Maj.Gen. Turpin E. cinerea 'White Dale'
  2. Mr. London E. cinerea 'Atrorubens'
  3. Maj.Gen. Turpin E. cinerea 'John Ardron'
  4. Maj.Gen. Turpin E. cinerea 'Heather Bank'
- H.C. Mr. London E. cinerea 'Harry Fulcher'
- Class 7. **DABOECIA**, any species, hybrid or cultivar, one vase/bowl (10 entries)
1. Maj.Gen. Turpin Daboecia cantabrica, unnamed
  2. Maj.Gen. Turpin Daboecia cantabrica 'Praegerae'
  3. Dr. Gray Daboecia cantabrica 'Alba'

- Class 8. ANY HEATHER SPECIES OR HYBRID NOT SPECIFIED ABOVE, one plant (2 entries)
2. Maj.Gen. Turpin E. x watsonii 'Truro'
- Class 9. ANY HEATHER SPECIES OR HYBRID NOT SPECIFIED ABOVE, one vase/bowl (9 entries)
1. Maj.Gen. Turpin E. manipuliflora  
 2. Maj.Gen. Turpin E. x watsonii 'Dawn'  
 3. Mr. London E. ciliaris  
 4. Maj.Gen. Turpin E. mackaiana 'Plena'
- Class 10. ANY HEATHER, one vase/bowl, to be judged for foliage effect (12 entries)
1. Maj.Gen. Turpin E. carnea 'Altadena'  
 2. Maj.Gen. Turpin Daboecia cantabrica 'Globosa Pink' (Golden)  
 3. Maj.Gen. Turpin Calluna 'Silver Queen'  
 4. Mr. Mayne E. ciliaris 'Aurea'
- Class 11. ANY HEATHER, one plant, to be judged for foliage effect (3 entries)
1. Maj.Gen. Turpin Calluna 'Foxii Nana'  
 2. Maj.Gen. Turpin Calluna 'Golden Rivulet'
- Class 12. DECORATIVE CLASS — AN ARRANGEMENT OF HEATHERS IN A BASKET. OTHER FOLIAGES MAY BE USED BUT HEATHERS MUST PREDOMINATE (6 entries)
1. Mrs. P.G. Turpin  
 2. Mrs. B. Mayne  
 H.C. Mr. E.M. Upward

Mr. and Mrs. Everett very generously staged a beautiful exhibit of heathers for the Heather Society, which was greatly admired by the public and received the well-merited award of a Silver Flora Medal.

The display was landscaped in two halves separated by a diagonal green carpet of 200 specimens of Calluna 'Mousehole' and the tasteful arrangement of flower and foliage colours, set off by four dwarf conifers made a spectacular exhibit. To achieve this effect the Everetts used a collection of 1000 heathers of 36 varieties of 9 species and hybrids, all mounted on a 12ft x 8ft stand.

In addition to Major General and Mrs. Turpin and Mr and Mrs Everett the following members kindly helped at the Heather Society stand during the two days:- Mr and Mrs D. Mayne, Mrs A. Duval, Mr B.G. London, and Mr E.H. Wiseman.

12 new members joined the Society during the two days.

### THE SOCIETY'S HERBARIUM

At the Lancaster Conference, Albert Julian handed me specimens of no fewer than 30 cultivars not yet represented in the Society's herbarium. This was a much appreciated fillip, and I am most grateful.

I hope many other members will help in this way - several quite common ones are missing, but good examples of ones we already have are also welcome. Those who wish to know what we lack can borrow from me my copy of the Pocket Guide to Heather Gardening in which I have marked in red those we have so far. Do not be put off by the fact that the tally at present is about 620 cultivars and forms, for there are twice as many as this in our lists! They can be sent to me fresh picked, or pressed and dried between newspapers or blotting paper under a weight.

David McClintock.

### Visit of Herr and Frau Schroeder. 13th-27th August

Herr Jurgen Schroeder, who is a member of the Committee of the German Heather Society (Gesellschaft der Heidefreunde), and his wife spent a fortnight visiting gardens and other places of interest in the South of England during the second half of August. They had planned an ambitious programme, which covered most of the Southern Counties from Kent to Cornwall. During their tour they visited and were entertained by a number of Heather Society members, including the McClintocks in Kent, the Nicholsons and Turpins in Surrey, Mrs. Garratt in Cornwall, the Maginneses in Dorset and Mrs. Bowerman in Sussex. By the time they reached their home near Hamburg they must have formed a very comprehensive impression of the gardens of southern England.

### GIFTS OF BOOKS

Mr. C.F.H. Addison of Ringwood Hants., a staunch supporter of the Heather Society since 1968, has made a gift for the benefit of the Society's funds of copies of F. Chapple's 'THE HEATHER GARDEN' and Maxwell and Patrick's 'THE ENGLISH HEATHER GARDEN' which are now out of print. These copies have now been sold to a delighted member. I would be pleased to hear from other members who have copies of these books and wish either to sell them or to donate them to the Society because I receive many requests from prospective purchasers.

Ken Farrah.

### TALKS ON HEATHERS

I receive a steady demand for lecturers to talk about heathers, and would be grateful if members who would be willing to talk to societies in their area would submit their names to me as soon as possible.

A REMINDER - To those members who do give talks on heathers - Have you got a supply of the leaflet packs? At 50p they are excellent value and our Treasurer Des Oliver would be only too pleased to send some to you.

Ken Farrah.

### The University of Bristol. LIZARD PROJECT REPORT No. 2

#### "The Heathers of the Lizard District of Cornwall"

A copy of this Report can be borrowed on application to the Chairman, Maj. Gen. Turpin, Cottswood, West Clandon, Guildford, Surrey. GU4 7UW. with 75p for postage and packing.

### FREE CULTIVAR ENQUIRY SERVICE

Have you spent many hours searching local nurseries for a particular cultivar in vain? Have nurserymen members wondered where they can obtain quantities of a certain cultivar?

As from January 1st 1983 a new service will be available which will save you all the wasted time and expense of searching.

For ordinary members all you need do is write to me with:-

a) the cultivar name, b) your zone number, c) a stamped self-addressed envelope.

To: D. J. Small, Denbeigh, All Saints Rd., Creeping St. Mary, Ipswich, Suffolk IP6 8PJ.

By return of post, a listing of all participating nurserymen who RETAIL the cultivar will be sent to you. The list will indicate which of these nurserymen are in your zone and those who are willing to mail order to you.



### Free Cultivar Enquiry Service Continued.

For Nurserymen members, when enquiring give similar details as above (if not obvious, indicate that it is a trade enquiry). A listing of all nurserymen who WHOLESALE the cultivar will be sent to you, giving details of those most local to you.

NB. By separating nurserymen from ordinary members, wholesale nurseries will not be listed on retail enquiries.

The success of the scheme is very much up to nurserymen members. Whenever you produce a new catalogue or change your trading arrangements, please let me have details so that I can add them to the computer data base. Let me have your current catalogue or list and trading details now so that your nursery is in the scheme from its inception. I need to know, as well as the list of cultivars you normally stock, the following:-

a) Wholesale only, Retail only or Both; b) Mail order or not; c) Zone number.

At present this scheme will be limited to cultivars supplied by nurserymen who are members of the Society. If however the response from member nurserymen is poor, then consideration will be given to extending the scheme to encompass other outlets.

Finally everyone should realise that although a nurseryman may list a cultivar, it could be that he is temporarily out of stock. It is not the intention of this scheme to keep records of such a transient nature.

David Small.

### TRIP TO IRELAND, 21st - 28th AUGUST 1983

There is no better place in these islands to see heathers than Connemara. In one small area there are five native species of Erica as well as Daboecia and Calluna. An account of the area can be read in the 1981 Yearbook (pp.52-62); those members intending to participate will find this article informative. Following informal discussions with a number of members of the Society, Dr. Charles Nelson has agreed to organise a conducted tour of the west of Ireland next August. The main plants to be seen are E. erigena (not in flower of course), E. mackaiana and Daboecia cantabrica. The itinerary suggested (see below) will also include visits to Donegal to see the most northerly station of E. mackaiana, taking in the population of E. vagans in County Fermanagh.

The tour would be based initially in Connemara where the facilities of the Connemara National Park would be available. Dr. Nelson will arrange hotels, but those intending to participate will be asked to make their own travel arrangements - if possible to bring their own cars. A few seats might be available with local members, but the number would be very limited. Anyone who is interested is asked to contact Dr. Nelson as soon as possible at 91 Castletown, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, Tel. 0001-271395 evenings only. He will send further details to interested members

Programme: Assemble at Clifden on Sunday 21st August in evening (It takes about 5 hours to drive from Dublin to Clifden in comfort)

Monday 22nd August - Visit Errisbeg (E. erigena, E. mackaiana, E. x stuartii etc.) and area northwards toward Craiggamore.

Tuesday 23rd August - Ballynahinch - Clifden area, Carna (original home of E. mackaiana 'Maura' and Daboecia cantabrica 'Charles Nelson').

Wednesday 24th August - Mweelrea (north of Killary Harbour) (E. erigena)

Thursday 25th August - Mulranny and Achill Island (E. erigena etc.)

Friday 26th August - drive north to Enniskillen (E. vagans)

Saturday 27th August - to Lough Nacung (E. mackaiana)

Sunday 28th August - garden visit may be organised or meeting disperses.

Dr. Nelson would welcome comments and suggestions on Hotels etc. The cost is likely to be about £100 (UK) excluding travel, if reasonable hotels are used.

NB. The tour will not be to gardens but to the wild rugged mountains and deep quaking bogs of Connemara and Donegal. There will be plenty of long invigorating walks - raincoats and wellington boots definitely required. The rewards will be marvellous heathers.

## GROUP NEWS

MIDLANDS Reports of this summer's garden visits will be included in the Spring Bulletin due to lack of space in this issue.

Future Plans. On November 19th at 7.30 p.m. at Winterbourne, Stewart Warner will talk to us about growing heathers and other plants to associate with them. Stewart has now completed his training at Sutton Bonnington, is a qualified Horticulturist and has joined his parents in running Barncroft Nursery.

Our first meeting of 1983 will be on Friday 4th March at Winterbourne, when David Radley, David Webster and Leighton Jones, have promised to bring specimen plants to illustrate "Heathers of my Choice". A wide variety of plants will be chosen with the object of giving members a chance for discussion.

WINTERBOURNE is situated at 56 Edgbaston Park Road, Edgbaston, B'ham.

Further details from me; Tel. Shenstone (0543)481183.

Alan Dudley.

SOUTHERN Reports of this summer's garden visits will be included in the Spring Bulletin due to lack of space in this issue.

Future Plans. We will open our 8th season with a whole day's outing in the most central part of the southern area. Mr. & Mrs. Nicholson have invited us to visit their spring garden at Farm Cottage, Westcott Rd., Dorking on the A25 west of the town exactly opposite Milton Court Lane, from 11 a.m. on Sunday March 20th. Mrs. Nicholson has offered to prepare a buffet lunch for us, so it is essential that members inform me as early as possible if they intend coming — the deadline being the previous weekend. The house is easy to find, but if anyone would like a sketch map they are available from me on receipt of a SAE. We will then drive the short distance to Horsham where I have booked the Phoenix Club Room, Comptons Lane, in the campus of Forest School, for a showing of recent slides by the Chairman, followed by tea. Put this date in your '83 diary now.

Pamela Lee.

SOUTH WEST Reports of this summer's garden visits will be included in the Spring Bulletin due to lack of space in this issue.

Future Plans. Our first meeting of 1983 will be on Saturday April 9th, 2 p.m. at Lytchett Matravers Village Hall where we will have a talk — as yet not defined. Then on Saturday July 9th at 12.30 p.m. we will visit two gardens at Totton near Southampton. Book these two dates now in your 1983 diary. Details of all our 1983 visits will be sent to Group members on receipt of two SAE before 1st March.

Phil Joyner.

### FAR WEST

During the afternoon of April 6th, our members gathered at the lovely North Devon garden of Dr. Smart at Marwood Hill, and then back to tea with Mr. & Mrs. Collins at Braunton. A meeting for 1983 was discussed, but it was decided that as the Annual Conference will be held in Cornwall, a separate Far West Group meeting was not necessary. All the Far West members are looking forward to meeting members from other Groups at Falmouth.

June Randall

## SCRAP BOWL

Thankyou to those members who have sent me contributions — these will have to be published in the Spring Bulletin as I have run out of space now! Ed.

## DIARY OF EVENTS

- Nov. 19th Midlands Group - Talk by Stewart Warner at Winterbourne - See Group News.
- Nov. 22nd North East Group - Talk with slides at Ponteland Methodist Church Hall, 7.30 p.m.
- Nov.23/24th RHS Flower Show inc. Class for heathers.
- Nov. 24th COUNCIL MEETING (WEDNESDAY) RHS Halls, Westminster.
- Jan. 15th CLOSING DATE - Material for the Spring Bulletin.
- Feb. 8/9th RHS Flower Show and Heather competitions.
- Feb. 8th COUNCIL MEETING, RHS Halls, Westminster.
- Mar. 4th Midlands Group - Discussion evening, 7.30 p.m. at Winterbourne, See Group News.
- Mar. 20th Southern Group - Visit to Dorking and Horsham - See Group News.
- Apr. 9th South West Group - Talk at Lytchett Matravers Village Hall, 2.00 p.m.
- July 9th South West Group - Garden visits to Totton near Southampton.
- Aug.21/28th Trip to the West of Ireland.
- Sep.9/12th ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Falmouth.