

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

Looking back at my editorial in the summer bulletin which began "I wonder when is our summer going to begin . . .", it is good to reflect that when it did come it was after all worth waiting for. We enjoyed the long hot and dry spell, as did our E. terminalis 'Thelma Woolner' which flowered better than ever before. I do hope that your heathers have survived and that the winter varieties will give us the colourful display we all look forward to from November onwards - E. carnea 'Eileen Porter' is already opening in our garden in the first few days of October.

Two successful events have taken place this summer. The first was the trip to the West of Ireland, which has been recorded for us by David Small in this bulletin; and the second was the Society's Annual Conference at Falmouth attended by a record number of members, a report of which will as usual be included in the Year Book. We are grateful to the organisers of these events, Dr. Charles Nelson and June and Don Randall, for all their hard work on behalf of our members.

Diane Jones.

A.G.M. - The Falmouth Hotel, 11th September 1983.

The President, Vice-Presidents, Officers, and the Auditor of the Society were all re-elected as were two of the three Council Members retiring by rotation, Mrs. P. Lee and Mr. H. Nicholson. Mr. H. Street had indicated that he did not wish to stand again as a Member of the Council, and the Chairman thanked him for all he has done for the Society and for the Midlands Group.

The Hon. Secretary in her report told the meeting that our membership continues to grow steadily and that the new Irish Group is flourishing.

Our Chairman, in the absence of the Hon. Treasurer, presented the Society's accounts for the year ending 31st December 1982 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 1982.

<u>INCOME</u>	Subscriptions, donations and Tax rebates on covenants	£	3,962.72p
	Profit from sales of publications etc.		512.92
	Credit balance from 1982 Conference		9.25
	Balance of funds from Sheffield Group		63.75
	Investment & bank interest		959.84
	Registration fees		6.00
	Slide library		5.00
		£	5,519.48p
 <u>EXPENDITURE</u>	 Year Book, Bulletins, Membership list & Postage	 £	 2,124.00p
	Administration		985.88
	Miscellaneous		198.28
		£	3,308.16
	 EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		 2,211.32
		£	5,519.48p

The Balance Sheet shows a credit balance in the accumulated funds at 31st December 1982 of £10,854.41.

14th ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 7th – 10th September 1984.

As announced in the Summer Bulletin, the 1984 Conference will be held at Cartrefle College near Wrexham, Clywd. The Conference Organisers will be Mr. & Mrs. M. Everett, Greenacres Nursery, Crossway Green, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcs. DY13 9SH. Advance bookings may be sent (£2 per mailing) to them. The booking charge is to cover administrative costs incurred by the organisers and is not a deposit on the Conference Fee. Cheques should be made payable to "Heather Society Conference".

Provisional Programme

Annual General Meeting.

Talks:- North Wales Flora - Speaker not yet fixed.

Subject to be decided - Mr. Bert Jones, Editor of the Heather Society Year Book.

Heathers & Conifers - Mr. M. Ruane of Brynhyfryd Nurseries Nr. Oswestry.

Hybridising of Heathers . Dr. John Griffiths of Leeds University.

Mr. Kenneth Hulme, Director of Ness Gardens will give an illustrated talk on the history of the garden and a member of his staff, Mr. Peter Cunnington, will speak on Ericaceous plants.

Visits:- (a) Bodnant Gardens, Tal-y-Cafn, North Wales, with a short introduction to the gardens by the head gardener, Mr. Martin Puddle.

(b) Mr. & Mrs. Ruanes garden and nursery near Oswestry.

(c) Ness Gardens, Wirral, Cheshire.

On Sunday evening we hope to include '10 minute topics', a chance for members to air their views, (as it proved a popular event at the 1983 Conference), and possibly an 'Open Forum'.

Daphne Everett.

T.V. Programme "Geoffrey Smith's World of Flowers".

The second Part of this Programme, which is due to start in January 1984, will include the following subjects:-

Daffodils	Lilies
Delphiniums	Peonies
Dianthus	Poppies
Fuchsias	Pelargoniums
Heathers	Violets

Exact dates and times have not been received. The programme on "Heathers" is likely to be shown during February.

Best Garden of the Year Competition.

In the summer 1982 Bulletin, I announced details of this ICI organised garden photographic competition. I am delighted to report that one of the 10 winners was a Heather Society member, Mrs. Dorothy Goode of Southend-on-Sea, with a photograph of her heather garden. This was in the face of nation-wide competition from photographs of a wide variety of vegetable and fruit gardens covered by the contest. Our congratulations to her.

Pamela Lee.

Christmas Gifts for Gardeners

The Heather Society's leaflets dealing with heather culture make admirable inexpensive gifts for heather enthusiasts – and indeed for all who are interested in gardening. The three leaflets 'How to choose Heathers', 'How to grow heathers' and 'How to Propagate heathers' are contained in an attractive plastic wallet and may be obtained, price 50p plus 20p P & P., from either Mr. D.B. Oliver, 27 Valentine Road, Leicester LE5 2GH or from Mr. K.H. Farrah, 7 Rossley Close, Highcliffe, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 4RR.

R.H.S. Show 9th/10th August 1983. Heather Competition.

The heather competition was well supported, with a total of 58 entries in the eleven classes from eleven competitors, most of them members of the Heather Society. Once more, owing to the repairs being carried out to the roof of the New Hall, the number of entries in each class was restricted to one from each competitor.

Results:-

Class 1. Three Distinct Heathers in bloom. 5 entries.

1st. Major General and Mrs. Turpin.	Calluna vulgaris 'Grey Carpet' Erica cinerea 'John Ardron' E. vagans unnamed
2nd. Mr. B.G. London.	Calluna vulgaris 'Alba Plena' Daboecia 'Polifolia' E. cinerea 'Atrorubens'
3rd. Mr. W.H. Horner.	Calluna vulgaris 'Hayesensis' Calluna vulgaris unnamed Calluna vulgaris unnamed
4th. Mrs. D. Everett.	Daboecia cantabrica 'Praegerae' E. ciliaris 'Stapehill' E. cinerea 'Cevennes'

Class 2. Erica vagans. 5 entries.

1st Mr. D. McClintock	Seedling
2nd. Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Turpin.	'Mrs. D.F. Maxwell'
3rd. Mr. D. Mayne.	unnamed
4th. Mr. W.H. Horner.	'Mrs. D.F. Maxwell'

Class 3. Calluna vulgaris, a single flowered coloured cultivar. 6 entries.

1st. Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Turpin.	'Barbara Fleur'
2nd. Mr. D. McClintock.	'Barbara Fleur'
3rd. Mr. W.H. Horner.	unnamed

Class 4. Calluna vulgaris, a double flowered coloured cultivar. 6 entries.

1st. Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Turpin.	'Tib'
2nd. Mr. B.G. London.	'Tib'
3rd. Mr. W.H. Horner.	'J.H. Hamilton'
4th. Mrs. D. Everett.	'Tib'

Class 5. Calluna vulgaris, a single or double flowered white cultivar. 7 entries.

1st. Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Turpin.	'Mair's Variety'
2nd. Mr. D. McClintock.	Seedling
3rd. Mrs. M. Chapman.	'Hammondii'
4th. Mr. W.H. Horner.	Unnamed

- Class 6. *Erica cinerea*. 6 entries.  
 1st. Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Turpin. 'White Dale'  
 2nd. Mr. B.G. London. 'Harry Fulcher'  
 3rd. Mrs. M. Chapman. 'Hookstone White'
- Class 7. *Daboecia*. 4 entries.  
 1st. Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Turpin. 'Praegerae'  
 2nd. Mr. B.G. London. 'Bicolor'  
 3rd. Mr. D. McClintock. 'Praegerae'
- Class 8. Any Heather species or hybrid in bloom, one plant. 2 entries.  
 1st. Mrs. D. Everett. *E. cinerea* 'White Dale'  
 2nd. Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Turpin. Fasciated form of *E. x watsonii*
- Class 9. Any Heather species or hybrid not specified above. 4 entries.  
 1st. Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Turpin. *E. mackaiana* 'Plena'  
 2nd. Mr. D. McClintock. *E. terminalis*  
 3rd. Mr. B.G. London. *E. x watsonii* 'H. Maxwell'
- Class 10. Any Heather shown for foliage effect. 8 entries.  
 1st. Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Turpin. *Calluna vulgaris* 'Silver Queen'  
 2nd. Mr. W.H. Horner. *Calluna vulgaris* 'Beoley Gold'  
 3rd. Mr. D. Mayne. *E x darleyensis* 'Jack H. Brummage'
- Class 11. Decorative Class. An arrangement of Heathers in a basket. 5 entries.  
 1st. Maj. Gen. and Mrs. Turpin.  
 2nd. Mrs. P.B. Lee.  
 3rd. Mrs. D. Everett.

A Heather Society exhibit was staged by Mr. and Mrs. Everett, which was much admired and received a well-deserved award of a Silver Flora Medal. The exhibit, which was 13 feet long and 8 feet wide, was designed to show the great variety of flower and foliage that heathers can provide. It consisted of about 1,000 plants in groups of from about 20 to 50, which included 27 named cultivars of 7 different heather species and hybrids. Added interest was provided by the inclusion of ten dwarf conifers and shrubby plants. Major General and Mrs. Turpin were helped at the Heather Society stand by Mr. and Mrs. Mayne and Messrs. Bridgland, London and Wiseman.

#### CHAMPAGNE IN CONNEMARA ?

The idea of having a Heather Society Field Trip to Ireland to study *Erica mackaiana* and *Erica x stuartii*, was first mooted by Charles Nelson during our 1982 visit to Spain with David McClintock. At that time, we thought a party of 10 to 12 would be ideal, but the idea was to prove so popular that at times the party comprised 31, coming from Spain, France, and West Germany as well as from Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and England.

The rendezvous was at Kylemore in Connemara on Sunday 21st August. It was during that evening if I recall correctly, that Charles Nelson laid down a challenge – a bottle of champagne for the first person to find a white *Erica mackaiana* on the trip.

However, our first port of call was to see the most southerly Irish station of *Erica erigena* on Errisbeg, a small mountain lying behind the village of Roundstone. The village was an appropriate point to start our field trip, as it was the home of William M'Calla who discovered *Erica mackaiana* in Ireland some 150 years ago. We climbed over the saddle of the hill, passing through naturalised *Fuchsia magellanica* and *Ulex gallii* the dwarf gorse. As we descended the slopes on the northern side of the hill, we could see the bright green hummocks of *Erica erigena* following the stream bed down to Lough Nalawney. Connemara gave us a typical welcome of fine rain so we retired to Roundstone for a little sustenance (a black liquid in some cases).

After lunch with the weather improving, we followed along the historic 'peat road' taken by William M'Calla when he first discovered *Erica mackaiana*, passing his grave in the process. On finding plants of *Erica mackaiana*, Charles Nelson explained the differences between *Erica tetralix*, *Erica mackaiana* and the hybrid *Erica x stuartii*.

On the Tuesday we travelled further south to Carna to see the colony of *Erica mackaiana* plants which have petaloid stamens much like the cultivar 'Maura' which came from this site. All the local inhabitants stood around in amazement as all of the party shod in "wellies", combed the area hoping to find the fully double form like the cultivar 'Plena' but also to no avail.

A few hundred yards away was the home of the double-flowering *Daboecia cantabrica* 'Charles Nelson' and nearby was a plant resembling 'Praegerae' in all respects, which Charles had found only the week before when filming in the area with the BBC.

Our next port of call was Craiggamore, a low hill surrounded by blanket bog. Here, *Erica mackaiana* and *Erica x stuartii* grow in abundance. As became the custom at the other sites, the party scattered far and wide, heads down, searching for the elusive white *mackaiana*! It was all too much for the locals, who could restrain their curiosity no longer. When being told we were looking at rare heathers, they simply shrugged their shoulders and drove off, no doubt thinking that we had had a little too much Poteen (for those who do not know what this is, read on.)

Nearby we visited the only site of *Erica ciliaris* in Ireland which, as there are only six plants, is needless to say fully protected. It flowers later than normal and does not set seed. That evening after dinner most of the party attended a sesiuin, an evening of Irish music. A fine time was had by one and all, in particular we enjoyed the sketch on the brewing of Poteen (the illegally brewed spirit) which some say still goes on in the remoter parts of Connemara. Several of us staggered back to the hotel in the early hours and certain of us (they shall be nameless) got lost in doing so!

The Wednesday saw us doing a little original work i.e. plotting the distribution of *Erica erigena* on the southern flanks of Mweelrea, the highest mountain in the region (just in Co. Mayo). It proved to be particularly interesting to me, because it turned out to be one of the largest stands in Ireland, in fact even after several hours of hard walking, we were still finding small patches of *E. erigena* at the base of running streams, rarely over the 500' contour line.

That evening, Charles gave a talk at the Connemara National Park and he had nearly 100% attendance from the party, all secretly hoping to find out again the differences between *Erica x stuartii* and its parents.

On the Thursday we drove in convoy to Donegal but we did stop briefly at Lough Furnace. It was here in March that Charles and I found two "white" *E. erigenas*. I should add that white *Erica erigenas* had only been found 3 times in the wild before. Well, I say we found two but maybe we had had too much of the black liquid by this time, which when compared to that, they looked white. Anyhow, in March we could not reach one of the plants, so Ian Small had to don his waders (specially brought for the purpose), and wade through stream and bog to take cuttings from the plant standing some 4' high.

On Friday, we visited the only colony of *Erica vagans* in Ireland which is near Belcoo in Fermanagh, where we were alarmed to see a four lane motorway had been built to the site. Well, not quite a motorway, but a well constructed cart-track to help farmers tend their cattle in the winter. At this site, all the *Erica vagans* are white and apparently do not set viable seed.

And so to our last day, the day when we HAD to find a white *Erica mackaiana*, the day when we would visit the home of 'Irish Lemon' and 'Irish Orange'. Again we combed the shores of Lough Nacung, beside the towering cone of Mt. Errigal to no avail. Plenty of 'Irish Lemon', superb plants too, but no white *E. mackaiana*.

That afternoon we visited the beautiful gardens of Glenveagh Castle, soon to be opened to the public as part of the Donegal National Park. This garden in spring must be a sight (and smell) to behold, as it is Rhododendron country, in fact, Rhododendron ponticum was very much considered a weed. I particularly recall some superb white flowering New Zealand trees of Hoheria set against a backdrop of castle, lough and mountain.

On that evening we gathered together for the last time. We had enjoyed each other's company, learning a bit more about heathers, seeing 9 species of heather growing in the wild, fresh air and beautiful scenery, so much that we spent most of the evening discussing where and when the next field trip was to be. (Spain seems to be the favourite).

One thing remained, which was to thank our leader Charles Nelson for his very smooth organisation and for imparting some of his knowledge to us. We all thought it appropriate that as we had failed to meet his challenge – champagne for white Erica mackaiana – the best we could do was to buy him a bottle of "bubbly".

As we all departed on Sunday to go our various ways, those members who were returning to Dublin to catch boats and planes visited Mr. & Mrs. David McLaughlin's garden at Omagh – a wonderful bright heather garden, and finally on to Ballinamallard for lunch with Charles's parents.

We three members of the Small family travelled back to Connemara to continue our holiday. As we gazed out to sea dotted with many misty isles, we wondered again about the mysteries surrounding some of the Irish heathers and whether any of these could ever be solved.

P.S. During our further week's stay in Connemara, we completed the plot of the distribution of Erica erigena on Mweelrea and found a further 16 'Praegerae' forms of Daboecia but we never did find a white Erica mackaiana!

David Small.

## GROUP NEWS

### MIDLANDS

Our visit on Saturday 18th June to Harold and Margaret Street's home at Chipping Campden was a great success. Twenty five members spent a most enjoyable afternoon and evening in their delightful garden, and as it was a beautifully warm sunny day we were able to eat our buffet meal outside. The ladies provided an excellent variety of savouries and sweets and Margaret Street provided coffee. We also enjoyed seeing the wide range of shrubs and plants in this garden which has matured so well since our last visit. In particular we were amazed to see how successfully Harold had managed to grow so many different heathers in the limestone country of the Cotswolds.

On Saturday 20th August, our two garden visits attracted about 40 members and friends, and as we were favoured with fine weather we were able to enjoy both visits to the full.

At Barncroft Nursery we were impressed by the extensive development which had taken place in the heather garden and nursery since our last Group visit in 1978. Ray, Olwen and Stuart Warner have put in a lot of hard work and must be congratulated on their results. We were very grateful to Olwen for providing a very welcome cup of coffee to add to our picnic lunch.

In the afternoon we moved on to Withington near Uttoxeter to see Harold and Phyllis Bailey's garden. This is a delightful garden widely planted with heathers, trees and shrubs, created by Harold in the existing garden which surrounded the bungalow and

extended into an adjacent field. We were provided with cakes, scones and tea which were very welcome on this warm day. We were sorry that, due to ill health, Phyllis could not be with us, but we were grateful to her daughter for stepping into the breach to help.

Alan Dudley.

The weekend of 2/3/4 September provided the Midlands Group with a third successive chance to display a range of heathers at the City of Birmingham Show 1983.

This year's stand was sited in one of the main flower marquees and being of an island form, gave better than ever facilities for the visiting public to become more closely acquainted with this increasingly popular style of gardening.

About a thousand plants were incorporated in the display, these having been grown and set out by Daphne and Maurice Everett. The stand was continuously manned and fifteen members of the Midlands Group attended during the three days. We thank them all for contributing to a very successful show.

Evelyn and Bernard Skett.

Future Programme. On Friday 18th November, 7.30 p.m. at Winterbourne, Mr. Leighton Jones will give a talk entitled "Heather Garden Design".

Then on Friday 24th February 1984, 7.30 p.m. at Winterbourne, Daphne and Maurice Everett will give a short report illustrated by slides on their recent expedition to Ireland seeking heathers in the wild. This will be followed by a discussion inspired by the thought "How I became hooked on heathers". It is hoped that this subject will give all our members a chance to take part.

On Wednesday 23rd May, Mr. Peter Lyons has again invited us to visit his firm's office at 28 Calthorpe Road, Birmingham to see the results of their landscape gardening work in their own garden and that of the next door premises. He has kindly offered to provide light buffet refreshments and facilities for a general chat.

Any further details about the programme or the Midlands Group are available from Alan Dudley, 18 Belwell Drive, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B74 4AH, or telephone 021 308 2079.

## SOUTHERN.

Perhaps it was because of the doubtful weather – which, in the event, was dry – a much smaller group than usual had the privilege of being taken round the Valley Gardens in Windsor Great Park on 29th May 1983 by the Keeper of the Gardens – Mr. John Bond.

Apart from some mature trees and the man-made lake, it was hard to believe that the gardens were Bagshot sand heathland only thirty years ago. Most gardeners have heard of the Savill Garden but many have never visited the Valley Gardens next door and in May the colourful show of Rhododendrons and Azaleas is unbelievably beautiful.

Walking round with Mr. Bond telling us about the history and the planting made it intensely interesting. He reminded us that a garden never stands still and in the Valley they are always replanning and replanting small areas at a time. One new piece of planting of Kiusianum azaleas either side of a broad grass walk was a wonderful sight and he showed us all the various shades there are, including the more unusual white. Mr. Bond called them the 'Heathers of Japan' as they grow all over the mountains near Kurume. The Cornus Florida 'rubra' were flowering particularly well this year; Enkianthus were at their best and a tree that was looking particularly attractive was the golden Quercus 'rubra aurea'.

We visited the heather garden although there was not much to see at this time of the year, but you may recall that General Turpin contributed a comprehensive account of the

Valley Gardens to the 1977 Year Book, and described some of the 200 varieties of heather being grown there. Mr. Bond told us that the tree heaths, except for *Erica arborea* 'Alpina', had been devastated in the winter of 81/82. He expressed the hope that the trial grounds at Wisley would soon be planted as they were so badly needed. We also saw and admired the National Collection of dwarf and slow growing conifers, and *Sorbus Cashmiriana* was in full flower looking graceful.

After a picnic lunch we visited the Savill Garden where again a show of *Rhododendrons* was magnificent. The scree is now well established and the alpinists grow well and look attractive in this type of garden.

Puck Duvall.

One of the best attended meetings in the history of the Group took place on July 17th when a total of 43 members, only equalled by the number of – mainly different – people who visited previously in 1976, gathered at the wholesale heather nurseries of Windlesham Court near Bagshot at the height of the heat-wave.

The drought, of course, is no problem where there is a complete irrigation system and it was delightfully refreshing to peep into the long 'poly' tunnels packed with boxes of cuttings, green and gold under the mist. No sun-screening cover is placed over the tunnels and under the very hot humid conditions, rooting is often obtained in seven days.

Mr. John Hall, who manages the nursery, led the Group round and after seeing the large walled garden filled with long neat and weed-free rows of stock plants, we were shown the power house. We then toured the main growing-on area where the young plants, having been pricked out from their boxes in the "dry" poly tunnels, are grown on in individual plastic containers and hardened off in the open for sale within the year.

Moving into a large shed where, during the week, the initial work is carried out, Mr. Hall demonstrated their method of taking cuttings and answered many questions. Production has been greatly increased since our previous visit, when Windlesham Court were despatching three quarters of a million plants annually. This year they aim for a target of 1½ million! The staff are now all full-time and the girls are so nimble-fingered that they can each set out more than 600 cuttings an hour, 200 to a box. The compost used is a special formula, topped with a layer of sharp sand, lightly pressed, the holes being made with one swift gesture by inverting a 'peg-board' frame onto the compost.

A fascinating afternoon was further enhanced when members were invited to tea by the proprietors, Mr. & Mrs. N.R. Willcox, at their home nearby, and we were able to stroll across the lawns to admire extensive herbaceous borders, shrubberies and the ancient Medlar tree after which the house is named.

Pamela Lee

#### SOUTH WEST.

On May 14th members visited the garden of Col. & Mrs. Bullivant at Stourton House next to Stourhead Gardens. The garden consists of 4 acres of trees and shrubs together with many bulbs. Col. Bullivant showed us some unusual daffodils exhibiting a split corolla and giving them a very attractive appearance. Mrs. Elizabeth Bullivant specialises in dried flower bouquets and many of her plants are grown for this purpose. Many plants were for sale and members took advantage of this. My thanks go to Col. and Mrs. Bullivant for a very enjoyable afternoon. The garden at Stourton House is open under the National Gardens Scheme and is advertised in the 'Yellow Book'.



July 9th was one of the many hot and sunny days of the summer and provided excellent conditions for members to enjoy a picnic lunch at the garden of Bill and Joan Vicary at Foxhills near Totton. Their garden consists of trees, shrubs and heathers and provided plenty of shade for sitting out and plenty of interest too. Several attractively shaped beds contained various heathers allowing us to enjoy our favourite hobby to the full. Halfway through the afternoon we all moved on to my garden at Rushington, Totton, where we had tea. I think that members probably doubted my interest in heathers on that day as I was preparing for a Fuchsia show a week later. We were very pleased to welcome a number of visitors from outside the South West Group during the day – visitors are always most welcome at our Group meetings. My thanks go to Bill and Joan for their hospitality, and also to my wife Lin and my daughters Amanda and Sharon for providing the tea.

It was a breezy and showery afternoon on the 3rd September when we visited the wholesale nursery of Mrs. Barbara Ellis at West Kington near Chippenham. Mrs. Ellis together with her partner in the nursery and her head plantsman showed us around the 13 tunnel houses, the display beds and the outside standing areas. It has only taken 5 years to create this nursery and further expansion is underway. Mrs. Ellis specialises in alpines and heathers, and she also grows conifers. At the end of the afternoon we were entertained to tea and we had plenty of time to talk about heathers. Mrs. Ellis would welcome any wholesale enquiries and is also extremely enthusiastic about increasing her range of heather cultivars. She and her colleagues were thanked for a wonderful afternoon.

Once again I appeal to members of the Group who are willing to allow us to visit their garden. Please let me know if you can help.

Our first meeting of 1984 will be at Lytchett Matravers Village Hall on Saturday 14th April, 2.0 p.m. when Bert Jones will be giving a talk on a heather topic, and this will be followed by tea and a 'social time'. Would members please let me have two SAE's by the end of February for the details of the 1984 meetings.

Phil Joyner.

#### SCRAP BOWL – Titbits of news from members.

Late flowering Callunas – Clearly General Turpin's candidate for being the latest-flowering cultivar is a truly remarkable plant! I envy him his specimen of 'Jan' which not only flowered until 20th February but also came into flower again on the 23rd May. I hope our Chairman is busy propagating this cultivar and will put me on the distribution list! More seriously, it is useful to learn that it is now possible to have *Calluna vulgaris* cultivars in bloom from June until February.

From the discussion to date, it would seem that General Turpin and I are in agreement that the earliest flowering cultivars are 'Mullardoch', 'Caerketton White', 'Loch Turret' and the white flowered St. Kilda plants. I note two characteristics about these cultivars: they are all Scottish in origin and are all white. Why is this? Is there some complex relationship between Scottishness, i.e. climate and soil, and whiteness and earliness?

Which, by the way, is the earliest cultivar of *Erica cinerea* to bloom? 'C.G. Best' was first for me, blooming by the 16th June this year, followed by the two Albas, 'Alba Major' and 'Alba Minor'.

R.C.D. Kingsford. Zone 4.

An invitation – Members visiting the tulips at Springfields are very welcome to visit my Heather garden at 12 Link Way, Spalding, and a phone call would be appreciated (0775 3014)

P.A. Laming, Zone 6.

Colour all through the year – Seven years ago I planted a new heather bed using about 20 cultivars in groups of 5 with a few assorted conifers for contrast. Viewed from the windows of the house some 50 yards away, the seasonal changes of foliage and flower colour have given us much pleasure throughout each year.

One example of all year round effect is *E. cinerea* 'Golden Sport' blending into *Calluna vulgaris* 'Sunset' on one side and *Calluna vulgaris* 'Peter Sparkes' on the other. Now at the beginning of August the soft green foliage of 'Golden Sport' is beginning to show through the amethyst flower cover while the bright gold of 'Sunset' will soon be changing to its richer autumn and winter colouring while the greyish foliage of 'Peter Sparkes' is giving way to the beautiful contrasting deep rose pink.

It would be interesting and perhaps helpful to other members if we could hear of other favourite groupings for all year effect.

Roy Turner, Zone 11.

News from Australia. – We were fortunate to have escaped the terrible fires which were only 6 miles from Drouin probably because the countryside is fairly open here. Many fires started in the Eucalyptus groves that border the roadways as a result of the Eucalyptus oil evaporating in the intense heat. One lighted match I am told produces a 'will of the Wispish' blue flame which could travel in the wind and scorch all the trees if nothing worse. One can see where this has happened, and where the trees are putting out fresh growth.

What with the climate, not being as young as I was, and trying to do ten years gardening in two; with the subsoil excavations left by the builders and this un-retentive red clay soil quite unlike my clay in the U.K. (volcanic I think as opposed to sedimentary) there are many problems. I had assumed that pine bark mulch would be too coarse for heathers, but now that it has packed down the *E. vagans* and *E. erigena* may be able to cope with it. I have otherwise used bale after expensive bale of peat.

P.S. The mowing machine unfortunately ate my 'Eileen Porter'. However this black lamb now a year old is excellent otherwise and does a good job. Recently shorn, she yielded 6 lbs of good quality wool which is in much demand out here by amateur spinners and weavers. This letter will tax your editorial skills I fear, yours in haste,

Anne Parris, Drouin.

A Warning Story. What is *Erica vagans* 'Summer White'? Answer – 'Lyonesse'. How so? A label with it in a certain nursery had, beside 'Lyonesse', "Summer" for the flowering period, and "White" for the flower colour. Someone read only these two words and took them for the cultivar name!

The Registrar.

Another Warning Story. What is *Calluna vulgaris* 'Marike' or 'Marinke', a name that got bruited around in 1982? Various guesses were made. It was the Chatelains who unearthed the truth. When they were in Germany in 1980, they took a pot of rooted cuttings of 'Red Carpet' to give Herr Westermann. Although they were so labelled, the back of the label still bore the name 'Marike', because it had been insufficiently erased. Westermann read the wrong side! In fact, 'Markike' was probably a cyclamen.

The Registrar.

Match-Box Label. Those members of the Heather Society, who are also collectors of match-box labels, may be interested in one which David McClintock showed me the other day. The picture on the label was of "Scotch Heather", recognisable as Ling, but instead of being white the flowers were bright red. The rest of the writing on the label was:- "Safety Matches – average contents 30 – made in USSR".

Pat Turpin.

### BOOK REVIEWS

Double Flowers. Mrs. J. Reynolds & J. Tampion. Pembroge Press £9.75, 1983.

The date on the heathers in this 183 page book is sadly garbled, inadequate and inaccurate. The best part is reproducing in full the examination General Turpin made of the flowers in a single raceme of *E. mackaiana* 'Maura' which is muddled with 'Plena', a name which appears nowhere. Very disappointing.

Azaleen, Eriken, Kamelien. By Hellmut Vogel. Paul Parey. 2nd Ed, 1982.

Our friend, the Secretary of the German Azerca has produced an updated version of his standard work on the production of these important plants for the trade. Pages 129 - 190, 253 - 260 and Plates 1 - 3 deal with heathers. These are mostly *Erica gracilis* and other commercial greenhouse sorts, which is of considerable interest in itself, but quite a bit of it applies to hardy heathers too. Who would like to borrow my copy, for the return postage – it weighs 1 lb 12 oz? It is of course in German.

David McClintock.

DIARY OF EVENTS.

- Nov. 18th Midlands Group – Talk “Heather Garden Design” Mr. Leighton Jones at Winterbourne 7.30 p.m.
- Nov. 29th COUNCIL MEETING, RHS Halls, Westminster.
- Nov. 29/30th RHS Flower Show, including a Class for Heathers: RHS Halls, Westminster.
- Jan. 14th CLOSING DATE – Material for the Spring Bulletin.
- Feb. 21st COUNCIL MEETING, RHS Halls, Westminster.
- Feb. 21/22nd RHS Show, including heather competitions, RHS Halls, Westminster.
- Feb. 24th Midlands Group – Talk with Slides at Winterbourne, 7.30 p.m.  
See Group News
- Mar. 18th Southern Group – Social meeting with slides at the Village Hall, Betchworth, 2.0 p.m.
- Apr. 14th South West Group – Talk at Lytchett Matravers Village Hall, 2.0 p.m.  
See Group News.
- May 23rd Midlands Group – Garden Visit to Birmingham. See Group News.
- Sept. 7/10th ANNUAL CONFERENCE, Wrexham.

BOOK REVIEWS

David McClintock

100, 222 - 250 and Plates 1 - 100 - with heathers. These are mostly first quality and other countries' specimens, which is of considerable interest in itself, but since it is applied to hard heathers for which would like to know my copy for the time being - it weighs 1 lb 12 oz. It is of course in German.

But first, the book is a very nice one. It is a hard cover of 100 pages, and the standard is high. The plates are in black and white, and the text is in German. The book is a very nice one, and it is a very nice one.

100, 222 - 250 and Plates 1 - 100 - with heathers. These are mostly first quality and other countries' specimens, which is of considerable interest in itself, but since it is applied to hard heathers for which would like to know my copy for the time being - it weighs 1 lb 12 oz. It is of course in German.