

*Bulletin of The
Heather Society*



Vol. 6 No. 2

Spring 2001

DIARY OF EVENTS

2001

10 March	Yorkshire	Meeting at the Study Centre, Harlow Carr
10 March	East Midlands	Visit to Kingfisher Heather Nursery, Spalding
17 March	Home Counties	Talk on Heather Propagation
24 March	South West Group	Indoor Meeting Lytchett Matravers
28 April	South West	Visit to Stourton House, Wiltshire
5 May	North East	Annual Outing - to Paxton House
12 May		Visit to Bracken Hill (must be booked in advance)
15 May	CLOSING DATE FOR SUMMER <i>BULLETIN</i>	
6 June	North East	Car outing to Belsay Hall
9 June	Yorkshire	Meeting at the Study Centre, Harlow Carr
21 July	South West	Visit to Highbury, West Moors, Dorset
? August	North East	Car outing to Chipchase Castle
7/10 September		Annual Conference
8 September	North East	Annual Show
15 September	Yorkshire	Meeting at the Study Centre, Harlow Carr



A Registered Charity No. 261407

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Cover illustration *Erica carnea* by Brita Johannson

A recent letter from member, Bob Rope, from Nottingham, drew my attention to a most retrograde step by the DIY store B&Q, who are selling their heathers un-named – with just the word 'HEATHER' and their price and colour. The back of the label does give details of flowering time, its height and spread, and whether it needs an acid soil, but nowhere does it give the name of the cultivar. Bob queried this with the store and was told that 'it increases sales' (nothing at all to do with saving money?).

Until fairly recently, a common complaint of our American cousins was that only two heathers were widely available in the USA - Erica med. Pink, or Erica med. White (I assume that med. was short for mediterranea – an old name for Erica erigena). They are now enthusiastically increasing their range of cultivars at a tremendous rate and are joining The Heather Society in order to increase their knowledge.

It is a great shame if, here in Britain, the home of The Heather Society and where interest in hardy heathers originally began, heathers are becoming so undervalued that the public will eventually only be able to buy: HEATHER-Red, HEATHER-White, or HEATHER- Pink!

30th Annual Conference, 7th-10th September Three Counties Hotel, Hereford

Programme

Friday, 7th September

4.00pm Registration and tea.

6.15pm Bar open.

7.00pm Dinner.

8.30pm Conference opened by our Chairman, followed by a talk about Hartlebury Common, near Stourport on Severn, from David Scott, who is the Warden in charge of the common.

9.30pm Bar open.

Saturday, 8th September

8.00am Breakfast.

9.15am Talk from Daphne Everett on *The Garden at The Bannut*.

10.00am Coffee.

10.30am Visit to John Richards Nursery, Colwall, Worcestershire,

where John will give a guided tour of his nursery. This will be followed by a packed lunch to be eaten somewhere on the Malvern Hills. After lunch we will journey to *The Bannut* where Daphne and Maurice Everett will welcome us and show us around their garden. The afternoon will be rounded off with refreshments to be taken in the garden.

5.00pm Return to the *Three Counties Hotel*.

6.15pm Bar open.

7.00pm Dinner.

8.30pm AGM

9.00pm Open Forum, your chance to ask any questions on Heathers, and *The Heather Society*.

9.30pm Bar open.

Sunday, 9th September

8.00am Breakfast.

9.15am A heather-related talk by a Society member.

10.15am Coffee

10.45am Visit to Hartlebury Common followed by a packed lunch to be eaten on the Common or on the coach. Lunch will be followed by a visit to a local garden.

5.00pm Return to the *Three Counties Hotel*.

6.15pm Bar open.

7.00pm Dinner.

8.30pm Open Forum, another chance for everyone to join in and solve other members' problems.

9.30pm Conference closed by our Chairman.

9.35pm Bar open.

Monday, 10th September

8.00am Breakfast.

9.30am Depart *Three Counties Hotel*.

The above programme may be subject to some minor amendment. The timing of the group photograph will be announced at the Conference.

Cost of the Conference

Residents for the whole weekend.	£199
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Non-residents, Friday evening	£21
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Saturday	£42
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Sunday	£42
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For non-residents the Friday evening includes afternoon tea and dinner. The Saturday and Sunday includes morning coffee, the visits, lunch and dinner. For non-residents attending all three days there will be a combined cost of £100, a saving of £5.

Accommodation, dining and lecture facilities have been arranged at the *Three Counties Hotel* in the historic Cathedral City of Hereford close to the Welsh borders. The hotel is set in 3 acres of landscaped grounds alongside the road to Abergavenny (A465) and about 1 mile from the centre of the city. The accommodation is limited to 20 twin rooms and 8 double rooms. The twin rooms have been reserved for single occupancy but depending on the booking

pattern some may be used for twin occupancy. Please note that there are now two Open Forum sessions one on each of the Saturday and Sunday evenings. Delegates may wish to prepare questions before the Open Forums and if so then Phil Joyner will be pleased to collect those questions during, or prior to, the Conference.

Bookings may now be made by sending £2 (per mailing) to:

Phil Joyner,
84 Kinross Road,
Rushington Manor,
Totton.
Southampton
SO40 9BN

Cheques should be made payable to The Heather Society, the booking fee is non-returnable and not a deposit on the cost of the Conference. Please note that the latest date for full payment is the **23rd July, 2001**. Members are reminded that payment by VISA or MASTERCARD credit cards is acceptable. If all of the available accommodation is booked then further bookings will be considered as day visitors and those persons will be asked to arrange their own bed and breakfast accommodation. In this case a telephone number for the Hereford Tourist Information office will be provided to aid bed and breakfast enquires. Phil Joyner will be pleased to answer any queries relating to the 2001 Conference by telephone (Tel:023 8086 4336 evenings and weekends).

Visits to *Great Comp & Bracken Hill* Saturday 12th May 2001 Ron Cleevely

Our recently retired President, David McClintock, has invited members to visit *Bracken Hill* on this date. Eric Cameron, a long-standing member, has kindly arranged free entry to the seven acres of his garden at *Great Comp* a mile away.

Members have been there on previous occasions. During the Annual Conference held in September 1987 (see *Yearbook*, 88:9) a visit was also combined with one to *Bracken Hill*. Visits to these two gardens were also made in 1996, but in that year separated by several weeks, as some members were asked to join the Dutch *Heather Society* in May; our own visit to *Bracken Hill* occurred in March (see Bulletin Vol. 5 Nos. 7 & 8). This year we have the opportunity of seeing *Bracken Hill* at a slightly different season.

Programme:

Meet in Car Park at *Great Comp*, Borough Green (6 miles from Sevenoaks),
Kent

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 11.00 - 1.00 pm | Tour garden: (plants will be available for sale). |
| 1.00 pm | A light lunch can be bought at <i>Great Comp</i> - or your own picnic eaten in the car park. Otherwise lunch may be obtained at the Blue Anchor pub on the way to <i>Bracken Hill</i> . |
| 2.00 pm | Bracken Hill |

3. 30 - 4. 0 pm Tea

It is necessary to know how many will be attending in order to make the necessary arrangements for catering and car parking.

The Spring 1996 *Bulletin* has directions to both venues, but a leaflet with these will be sent to those who notify me they will be attending, together with a note of where to park cars, near (**not at**) Bracken Hill.

Please inform Ron Clevely, the Hon. Secretary by 21st April

- a) if you wish to attend;
- b) in your own cars;
- c) whether you will have a light lunch at *Great Comp.*

Profile of Council Member – Jean Julian

When asked by the editor to write a profile of myself I needed to overcome my serious misgivings before accepting the request. One is inhibited to write of one's personal weaknesses and failures, and equally to boasting of one's successes; but husband Albert, helped me to overcome my doubts and offered to edit my efforts.

I was born in Accrington in 1944 and went to school there before my family moved to York in 1958 to run a local chemist's shop, where I acquired an interest in pharmacy and chemist's remedies. After leaving school I was persuaded by my friend's father to study pathology, now called biomedical sciences, and took a sandwich course lasting seven years, which culminated in a Fellowship of the Institute of Biomedical Sciences. During this period I was working at the pathology laboratories belonging to the various hospitals in York and studying at St. James Hospital, Leeds, part of the Leeds University Medical School. After my first two years I remained in the Haematology Section of the laboratory at York County Hospital working in "chemical haematology" now a lost department mostly taken over by immunology and then from 1977 specialised in blood transfusion in the new District General Hospital in York. By retiring early in 1998 my professional career ended.

When my medical examination studies came to an end, I had time to spare for other activities and joined the York Group of the Electrical Association for Women, which was originally formed to promote electrical safety in the home, and after some years became chairman. The group was disbanded when the electrical supply industry was privatised and I was then persuaded to become a member of Soroptimist International of York, a society for professional women whose objectives are to strive for the advancement of the status of women; high ethical standards; human rights for all; equality, development and peace. I soon became secretary and then President of the local organisation. In 1987 I was invited to join the York and District Crime Prevention Panel. They felt that their committees were too male dominated and asked Soroptimist International of York to help correct the balance. I became a member of the Community Safety Committee, which dealt with crime associated with the home and public places and the fear of crime. The Crime Prevention Panel was re-organised in 1994 when I was requested to chair my committee. This I did

for 4 years. The work proved to be most absorbing, working with the police, council, senior citizen organisations, radio and the media.

The government issued instructions, coupled with financial aid to the large cities and town councils, to create local partnerships (Crime and Disorder Act 1998). The major partners to be the police, council, health authorities, youth offending teams and probation service aided by local volunteer organisations. The Crime Prevention Panel thus became the basis for the new Safer York Partnership and I chaired the Communities and Neighbourhoods Action Group of this partnership for the following two years, until domestic and family responsibilities forced me to retire.

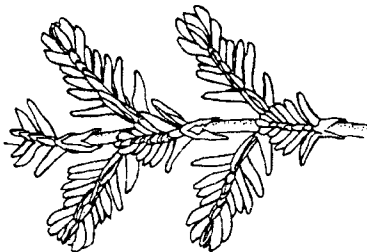
My favourite pastimes have been travel, photography and gardening. I was



in Venice when I first met Albert, my husband, who was a member of *The Heather Society* Council at the time. I already had a mild interest in heathers, particularly in the wild, but his enthusiasm was so infectious that I became a devotee, joining *The Heather Society* and making frequent trips to Harlow Carr Botanical Gardens in Harrogate to help maintain the collections there. In 1997 we revived the Yorkshire Heather group, originally formed by John Ardron in September 1973. It has the blessing of the *Northern Horticultural Society* and is a joint venture of *The Heather Society* and the *Northern Horticultural Society*. I am secretary and in this capacity become automatically qualified to membership of the Garden Liaison Panel and so feel that I have some

minor influence of the garden policies.

Hearing problems forced Albert to retire from *The Heather Society* Council and in the course of time I was invited to join and soon became Slide Librarian, endeavouring to expand this with the introduction of the plant portrait library. At the moment I am privileged to act as International Registrar aided by invaluable help from Charles Nelson and David Small.



De heer Ir Klaas Eelko Huizinga

In 1965 the Dutch came up with new ideas for planting in Country Parks, on camping sites and, of great significance, coastal plantings. As Tree Advisor (Planning) to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (later DOE), I was professionally very interested and arranged a meeting with the Agricultural Attaché of the Dutch Embassy. To my amazement and delight he formally invited me to the Staatbosbeheer (State forest Service) as a guest of the Dutch government.

When I arrived at Amsterdam Airport, I was met by my mentor, a tall slim, very neat and tidy Dutchman, one of the nicest men I ever met, a perfect delight: Klaas Huizinga. We got on tremendously well and an everlasting friendship had started.

Klaas, who later in his life qualified as an Ingenieur himself, was born in Rotterdam, a son of a telecommunication engineer. He married a lovely Dutch girl, Dina de Jager and they had two children, a boy and a girl.

Just prior to World War II he enrolled as a student of Wageningen University, where he read Home and Tropical Forestry. When Holland was occupied by the Germans in May 1940, he and his class were taken Prisoner of War by their Professor (a German) thus saving them from the Prisoner of War Camp. They agreed to clear-fell a certain number of trees every day and, with some clever organization, they finished their quota by lunchtime, leaving the afternoon free for their studies. At the beginning of 1945 things got difficult. Their Professor promised them safe passage and was able to acquire papers for their safe exit to anywhere they wanted to go. Klaas always said "I owe my life to a German!" After the war he got a job in Java – in Jakarta – but, when the Country became Indonesia, he was forced to return to Holland and was employed by the Staatbosbeheer. That was when we met!

Sometime later, when Klaas had moved to Rijkswaterstaat (Ministry of Transport), he wrote a highly technical book on the *Strategic Planting of Highways*. I was invited to Holland again and I saw how trees were surviving on the coast in terrible conditions,

When Klaas heard that Great Britain was going to change to the use of Natural Gas, he was most alarmed as to the effect of the change-over on our street trees. The Dutch at that time were far more advanced in their studies than we were and so I was invited a third time, in 1970, to take part in a private study at Wageningen University. The result was conveyed to the Ministry of Fuel and Power, showing a method of how our trees of special interest could be protected.

In 1971, the Nederlandse Heideverening (Dutch Heather Society) was formed and it produced a journal *Ericultura*. Klaas translated most of the important parts for our *Heather Society*, who made them available for interested members. These translations did a lot of good in promoting knowledge and friendship between the two Societies and for his work he was made an Honorary Member in 1975.

One of his other hobbies was ornithology. Sometimes, when we were driving in Holland, he suddenly might have spotted a small, white object in the distance, stopped and said "Kijk, een Kloot" (look an Avocet). He once

produced a long list of every bird you could think of, translated it into English and, for the benefit of my German wife, into German as well.

In spring 1999, we were told by Mevrouw Huizinga that Klaas had cancer of the mouth. He was operated upon, but we knew from the beginning that it would be fatal. Eighteen months later, in November, he died. Typical of him, his body was not 'wasted' but given to the University Clinic, Utrecht, for research purposes. He was always neat and tidy!

Hugh Nicholson

Ron Wing

As announced in the Autumn *Bulletin*, Ron Wing died suddenly on 10th September 2000. At the time of his death Ron was the Society's Auditor. It is appropriate just to say a few words about Ron, who with his wife Jean, were stalwart members of the Society and keen supporters of the Southern and the South West Groups.

Ron and Jean joined the Society in 1992 and quickly involved themselves in the former Southern Group's activities. At that time Ron and Jean lived in the village of Slinfold in West Sussex and on one occasion, on a sunny Saturday afternoon, I remember their well organised and attractive garden being open to the Southern Group members. When Allen Hall retired as the Southern Group organiser Ron joined a committee of members wishing to continue running that group but, in 1998, Ron and Jean moved to Corsley in Wiltshire and then became members of the South West Group. At national level Ron and Jean attended several conferences, usually travelling with their caravan, and on the occasion of the Society's Roadshow, held at the Hillier's Arboretum, they supported the event by sharing their enthusiasm for heathers with the public. In 1994 Ron became the Society's Auditor, a job which he took on with dedication and such was this dedication that, on the occasion of the cuttings workshop held in David and Anne Small's garden, he climbed into the loft, well warmed by the hot sun, to view and count the publications stock.

Ron's horticultural interests were not all heathers and probably his first love was his conifers. Ron grew a range of slow growing conifers in both the Sussex and Wiltshire gardens and maintained a mini-nursery containing a large collection of healthy conifers which he grew from cuttings. Ron also had other interests which included caravanning and a passion for steam locomotive preservation. He was a great supporter and active member of the Bluebell Railway in East Sussex and spent many occasions working on the railway as a volunteer, even after moving to Wiltshire. Coupled with his steam locomotive interest was his interest in model railways and I had the privilege last year of viewing his excellent model railway, based on a Southern pre-nationalisation theme.

Ron's dedicated support of the Society and its activities at national and local level will be missed. He will also be missed by his many friends in the society who all shared his enthusiasm for heathers.

Phil Joyner

The Lowland Heath of County Durham

David Plumridge

County Durham launched a Biodiversity Action Plan in January 1999. Not unnaturally, I found the proposed improvement of the county's lowland heath of great interest. Durham has an abundance of heather moorland, but much of the lowland heath has been lost over the last century or so, along with its wildlife. A number of local landowners have been found who are willing to help with the recreation of heathland, but the problem has been the supply of the desired native heather stock. To solve this, Derwentside District Council, in the north west of the county, decided to set up a local heathland nursery with English Nature assisting with a £1,000 grant.

I was recently welcomed at the nursery by Clive Bennet and Ken Graham who are key players in the project. Although not new to plant propagation, heather did not figure in their expertise. Despite starting from scratch, they are getting results! Last year they raised 5,000 plants and this year have taken 10,000 cuttings. Heel cuttings, 1 - 3ins long, with or without flower spikes were taken in August from the local heath just a few hundred yards away. They were planted in ready prepared French Fertissply plug trays. Each of the 150 compartments in a tray contains a fabric tube of compost 4cm long x 2cm diameter. The mixture comprising 70% peat moss, 20% perlite and 10% vermiculite with a pH of 6. They rooted on the misting bench within 2 weeks with very little loss.

They wanted to be "green" and avoid the use of peat in the potting compost. They had no success with coir, but a German composted wood pulp (Klasmann-Deilmann) has proved satisfactory apart from a weed problem.

Plants from the nursery have gone to the local Acorn Trust who as well as tree planting are interested in regenerating local heathland. Other supplies have gone to beautify pit heap remnants, embankments, old railway line cycle tracks etc where the low fertility acid shale is suited to calluna growth.

The county's grouse moors tend to overshadow the lowland heath, but the 120 hectares at Waldridge Fell near Chester le Street is a particularly attractive area when the heather is in bloom. It is a Site of Special Scientific Interest managed along with Durham County Council. With several car parks and extensive paths it is a very popular area. In fact it is a little too popular! Dog walkers' deposit is raising the fertility of the soil encouraging the development of patches of weed competition.

This lowland heath extended westwards for about 15 miles to near Blanchland where it now merges with the grouse moors. Heather appears wherever it can along this stretch and at Annfield Plain a few acres near the nursery are being cosseted by the Acorn Trust. Last year a working party removed encroaching birch etc. A few miles further on, where a conifer plantation next to our village was clear cut about ten years ago, calluna has regenerated successfully showing the viability of the old seed.

The county's commitment to our native heath is clear to see when driving around - several roundabouts have been planted with heather to give an excellent display. While people plant heather here and there in their gardens, maybe we can hope that this lead from the County will encourage them to plant more extensive displays?

A Hardy landscape that's all too fragile

Jack Watkins

Reproduced, with permission, from *The Daily Telegraph*,
20 January 2001

Thomas Hardy was wrong when he wrote that the soil of the place he called Egdon Heath "had always worn the same, antique brown dress". The heathland of Dorset is not a natural feature, but the result of tree clearance by Bronze Age farmers, maintained by the fuel cutting and stock grazing of subsequent generations.

Hardy depicted a heath of austere, desolate beauty, but, in general, it has had a bad press as a useless, barren wasteland and the haunt of highway men. From the 19th century, great chunks were being eaten up by expanding towns such as Bournemouth, or being reclaimed agriculture or sliced into fragments by road construction.

Naturalists are now trying to raise awareness of the heath's fragility. Britain, with a meagre 58,000 hectares of lowland heathland, supports 20 per cent of the world's total, yet in Dorset, long a heathland stronghold, four-fifths of the original area, has been lost since 1800. Its habitat supports a variety of wildlife and plant species rarely found elsewhere — such as the nightjar, Dartford warbler, stonechat, damselfly, sand lizard, dwarf gorse and bell heather.

At last, the Government has begun to react. Since 1995, 95 per cent of Dorset's heath has received protection as a site of special scientific interest. In 1998, it was classified as a wetland of international importance. Last year, a £3.7 million restoration project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Nature and 12 other conservation bodies, was announced as the largest single scheme within an umbrella project called Tomorrow's Heathland Heritage, which is supporting a nationwide programme of works on remaining lowland heaths.

As Jim White, English Nature's Dorset team manager, explains, these funds will not be used up fighting the forces of development and agriculture. "Agricultural reclamation is no longer a threat," he says. "Indeed, there are sites where reclamation has been reversed. Nor is development a threat, at least in terms of actual building on the heath, although its degradation from urban pressures remains a big concern." These pressures come from rubbish tipping, the thoughtless dropping of matches and soil erosion from motorcycle scrambling. However, the main damage is caused by invasive trees and scrub, which choke out the smaller plants. About 1,000 hectares of the heath have been colonised by such non-typical species as birch, pine and rhododendron, and been overgrown by gorse.

In the past, encroachment by trees and scrub was kept in check by farmers and villagers living on the edge of the heath. Heather turves and gorse provided a cheap source of fuel and bracken was useful for bedding. Many cottagers kept a few animals that they turned out on the heath to graze: cattle, sheep, ponies, generally known as "heathcroppers". By the Second World War, however, these activities

were in decline and the widespread plantation of conifers - which are prolific self-seeders - added to the degradation of heathland. A prime example of afforestation is on Puddletown Heath, around Hardy's cottage at Higher Bockhampton. Hardy drew heavily on the area for his settings in *The Return of the Native*, but visitors today have a tough time picking out the literary landmarks. Behind the cottage, what was once open heath in Hardy's youth is now a plantation. The area surrounding the Rainbarrows tumuli, where the novelist's father took him as a boy to show him local points of interest, is heavily wooded. Trees have closed in on either side of the Roman road traversed by Diggory Venn and Captain Vye in *The Return of the Native*, when it was "quite open to the heath on either side".

Unsurprisingly, Puddletown Heath is one of the priority action areas of the programme. But as Bruce Rothnie of Forest Enterprise points out, clearance will not be wholesale. "A lot of public money has been invested in the plantation and we are allowing some of the trees to grow to maturity to facilitate their use as timber. However, the area behind the cottage is a matter for immediate attention."

Heather seeds are known to be viable for 40 years and Rothnie says that beneath the trees there is a potentially large dormant seed bank for heathland vegetation, which should regenerate quickly after the conifers have been cleared. "Heather would be the first plant to return, almost certainly followed by gorse," he says. "Less welcome will be the purple moor grass, which tends to be invasive in the wetter areas." Rothnie says the programme is committed to management of scrub, along with the mowing of heather and treating of bracken on a four- to five-year cycle. And it seems as if the sturdy heathcroppers will become a familiar sight again. "We want to reintroduce animals, as the most effective means of controlling invasive species such as purple moor grass," he says. "But first we have to clear a more extensive area to link up for grazing."

Hartland Moor, near Wareham, is one place where heathland management has been practised for some years. Along with controlled burning of heather, blocks of gorse are burnt on rotation, partly to reduce the threat of fires and partly because young gorse bushes provide nest sites for the Dartford warbler and the stonechat. Since 1995, Red Devon cattle and Exmoor ponies have been reintroduced as heathcroppers. Inevitably, when so much of the programme revolves around tree clearance, there have been protests. "We are only talking about the felling of secondary — usually conifer — woodland, not ancient trees," Jim White says. "And there is scope to keep some as landscape features or as screens. Of course, there will still be a larger area of planted conifers than there is of heath, freely available to those who prefer to walk in a pine forest."

Queries through our website

Question: I wonder if you could advise me - I would like to plant an area for a winter flowering heather bed full of pinks and purples and yellow. Can you advise what types to buy - there are so many and I am a complete novice! The area I am planting is about 14 feet by 6 feet and will be in a sunny spot. When do I plant anyway to get the winter effect?

Answer: An area of 14 feet by 6 feet will require 36 plants. To get maximum effect you need to plant in groups of at least three of the same cultivar (cultivated variety). This means you could have up to 12 cultivars in the area but 6 plants of 6 cultivars will give you a better effect. You can only obtain yellow by growing a yellow-foliaged heather which is a good idea anyway as you have to consider what the bed will look like 'out-of-season'.

A very good yellow-foliaged variety is *Erica carnea* 'Golden Starlet' which also has some white flowers during the winter months. Another foliage variety you may like to consider is *Erica carnea* 'Ann Sparkes' which has a more orange foliage in winter turning gold in the summer. This cultivar has some deep pink flowers in winter. Both of these only grow to a height of 6 inches, if you want something a little taller then *Erica x darleyensis* 'Mary Helen' at 12 inches or so may fit the bill. This has orange foliage in winter, gold in summer with mid pink flowers in late winter.

As regards pinks and purples, shading from pale pink to near purple - look out for: *Erica carnea* 'Pink Spangles'; *Erica carnea* 'Rosalie'; *Erica carnea* 'Myretoun Ruby'; *Erica carnea* 'Wintersonne' (Winter Sun) and *Erica carnea* 'Nathalie'. All these grow to a height of 6 inches and have green foliage. The darker the flowers, the darker the green foliage. A taller cultivar is *Erica x darleyensis* 'Kramer's Rote' (Kramer's Red), dark pink, 12 inches. Finally, if you want a white, look out for: *Erica carnea* 'Ice Princess' or *Erica carnea* 'Isabell' (both 6 inches) or *Erica x darleyensis* 'White Perfection' (18 inches).

All of these cultivars should be appearing in Garden Centres about now and should be planted out as soon as you can. Keep them well watered should we have a dry spring or summer. Drying out is the main reason for plants dying. All of the plants I have mentioned will grow in all soils, so there is no need to add peat.

For more detail check out our website at: www.heathersociety.org.uk/growing.html and at www.heathersociety.org.uk/handy_guide.html

Group News

North East

We held our A.G.M. on October 20th, 2000 with 11 members attending, and we gave our thanks to Dave and Beryl Mayne for supporting us yet again.

The Officers and Committee were all re-elected and after the business was over David Plumridge entertained us with his slides of the German Conference showing the huge growing tunnels that are used for the propagation of heathers. We also saw the gardens that were visited during the Conference and all this made for a very informative and entertaining evening. We then rounded off the proceedings with our usual Faith Supper.

Since the A.G.M. we have had a Committee meeting to discuss the dates for the coming year and these are as follows.

Saturday May 5th. Annual Outing to Paxton House, Berwick.

Wednesday June 6th. Car Outing to Belsay Hall Gardens to see rhododendrons.

August ? Car Outing to Chipchase Castle.

Saturday Sept. 8th Annual Show.

Please, will you put these dates in your Diary NOW and I will send full details of all these events nearer the time.

Dorothy M Warner.

Yorkshire

The meetings of the Yorkshire Heather Group will take place at 2.30 pm. on Saturdays, 10th March, 9th June and 15th September 2001 at the Study Centre, Harlow Carr Botanical Gardens, Harrogate. The details of the programme are still being finalised, however it is probable that the March meeting will be based on *The Heather Society Slide Library* with a later meeting looking at Heather Honey.

Jean Julian.

Home Counties

The first meeting of the newly designated group took place on Saturday 7 October 2000 at the RHS Gardens at Wisley. A small but enthusiastic number, including new Chairman Arnold Stow, assembled in the morning of what was a very wet day; this may have contributed to the lack of numbers, but, with stoicism, the customary inspection of the heather gardens was made in a downpour before lunch. Even on such a miserable day I am pleased to announce that the heather gardens were looking good, especially the new beds.

The afternoon proceedings were taken up with a most interesting talk given by Barry Sellers on the Society's visit to South Africa in the autumn of 1999. This was superbly illustrated by Barry's colourful slides and the afternoon session was completed with a description by Barry of how to propagate Cape Heaths. The Table Show and Turpin Cup were won by John Tucker.

An invitation is extended to all members for the group's next meeting which will take place on Saturday 17th March 2001, at the National Rose Society's Headquarters trial grounds at Chiswell Green, near St Albans, Herts, at 2.00 pm. Our speaker will be President David Small who will talk on HEATHER PROPAGATION, thus giving attendees expert advice in good time for the new growing season. The Three Hammers Inn (Chiswell Green) near to the Rose Society will be the venue for those wishing to meet for lunch: it is suggested we meet at 12.30 pm.

Another event within the Home Counties area and arranged by *The Heather Society Council*, will be an afternoon visit to David McClintock's garden at *Bracken Hill*, Sevenoaks, Kent on 12th May – a wonderful opportunity to see tree heaths in full flower. This will be preceded by a morning visit to the nearby gardens of *Great Comp*. More information on this event can be found elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.

A newsletter will be sent to all Home Counties members giving instructions on how to find the NGS Garden, I will gladly forward instructions to others outside the group who wish to attend. I would appreciate a call if you intend coming to this meeting.

Derek Millis

South West

As I sit and write these paragraphs we are enjoying some cold crisp weather instead of the continuous rain of the past few months and we are at least getting some glimpses of the sun which, when out, does have some warmth and serves as a reminder of the longer and warmer days ahead. So once again we enter another season of meetings and visits to gardens. Both the gardens to be visited have been visited by the group before so some of you may remember them but of course the years have passed and the gardens will have changed. Please find the events planned for this year described below.

Saturday 24th March - This will be the annual indoor meeting at the Lytchett Matravers Village Hall in Dorset. Members should meet in the hall by 2.00 p.m. where Daphne Everett, *The Bulletin* Editor, will give a talk on the history of heather growing which will start with the interest in the Cape Heaths in Victorian times and continue on to the hardy heathers, their uses and the heather garden throughout the year. This will be a talk not to be missed. There will also be the two class Table Show:

Class 1. A vase or bowl of heathers in bloom.

Class 2 A vase or bowl of heathers shown for foliage effect.

Prizes will be awarded and the Burfitt Bowl (currently held by Maureen Clark) will be awarded to the exhibitor with the most points overall. Lytchett Matravers is situated six miles from Poole and one mile west of the Poole-Blandford road. The Village Hall is on the west side of the High Street, just north of the Rose and Crown Inn. Ample parking is available close to the hall and a charge will be made to cover expenses. There will be refreshment supplied after the talk.

Saturday 28th April - We have been invited to visit the garden of *Stourton House*, near Mere in Wiltshire. Members may remember that we visited this garden four years ago in the month of June and at that time Elizabeth Bullivant, who owns the house and garden, invited us to come back and view the garden in another season and that is what we are going to do. The garden is advertised in the Yellow Book and is adjacent to the garden of *Stourhead*. The four acre garden is informal and is regarded as a plantsman's garden. Elizabeth Bullivant is an authority on dried flowers and hopefully we shall see examples of this art. Members should gather together from 1.45pm in the Stourhead National Trust car park for entry into the garden at 2.00pm. *Stourton House* is just off the B3092 Mere to Frome road, about three miles north west of Mere so just follow the signs for Stourhead. There will be an entry charge to the garden and a charge for refreshment

Saturday 21st July - We shall be visiting the garden of *Highbury* at West Moors in Dorset and members should arrive by 2.00pm. *Highbury* is a half-acre garden owned by Stanley Cherry and can be found in the Yellow Book. Members visited this garden in 1992 during the month of May and saw a garden of rare plants and shrubs. Stanley Cherry now describes the garden as a peaceful woodland garden with many of the smaller shrubs and trees at the time of our last meeting having got closer to maturity. We have also been invited to enter the house and look at the large collection of books in the horticultural library. Stanley Cherry will provide refreshment during the afternoon. The garden is situated in Woodside Road at the north end of the West Moors village. West Moors is reached by leaving the A31, Ferndown by-pass and onto the B3072 Ferndown to Three Legged Cross road and travelling the short distance north into the village of West Moors and then travelling on through the village with Woodside Road being the last road on the right hand side as you leave the village. Parking is available in the road and there will be an entry charge for the garden and a charge for refreshment.

Further information on the meetings described can be obtained by sending me two SAEs at your earliest convenience. I would be grateful if you could ring me about 10 days before the meeting if you intend to come (TEL: 023 8086 4336). I finish this report by thanking you all for your support during the year 2000 and I hope for your continued support during 2001.

Phil Joyner

NEW MEMBERS IN 2000

Zone 1

CHITTY MR R A, Boghead Farm, Inverkeithny, Huntly, Aberdeenshire, AB54 7XD.
 COPSEY MR J A, 10 Muirhead Road, Baillieston, Glasgow, G69 7EY.
 HADLEY MRS M, The Old Station House, Durisdeer, Thornhill, Dumfriesshire, DG3 5BE.
 McDONALD MRS B W, Byways, 22/24 Queen Street, Perth, PH2 0EH.

Zone 2

SPAIN MR F, 24 New Road, Carrickmines, Dublin 18, Eire.

Zone 3

NICHOLSON MR M, 34 Woodlands, Seaham, Durham, SR7 0EP.

Zone 4

JACKSON MR D, The Coach House, Hampsfell Road, Grange-Over-Sands, Cumbria,
 LA11 6BE.

PRINCEP MR A, 22 Hornby Drive, Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 6JP.

Zone 6

EAMES NURSERIES, The Causeway, Thorney, Peterborough, PE6 0QQ.
 GRANT MR C E, 18 Park Road, Sibley, Leicestershire, LE12 7TJ.

Zone 7

BRITTAIN MR & MRS S & FAMILY, 69 Bay Tree Road, Abbeymead, Gloucester,
 Gloucestershire, GL4 5WD.

HOLMES MR & MRS C R, Hill Cottage, Bridstow, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 6PZ.

Zone 8

ANDERSON MR A C, Bay View, New Hill, Goodwick, Pems. SA64 0DU.
 MORRIS MR P C, 17 Rowan Rise, Trefechan, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 2EW.

Zone 9

BURN MR R, 4 Heather Drive, Holt, Norfolk, NR25 6AQ.
 CROCKER MRS K M, 3 Wilkinson Way, North Walsham, Norfolk, NR28 9BB.
 HAYWARD MISS R W, 25 Bosworth Close, Hawkwell, Essex, SS5 4EZ.

Zone 10

SNOW MRS J, St. Peter's Spinney, Ayot St. Peter, Welwyn, Herts. AL6 9BG.
 WHELAN MR JA, 16 Howe Drive, Beaconsfield, Bucks, HP9 2BG.

Zone 11

BROWN MR R H, 15 Fairmead Close Fittleworth, W. Sussex, RH20 1JQ.
 FITZ-EARL, MR J, 78 Woodland Way, West Wickham, Kent, BR4 9LR.

Zone 12

EDMONDSON MR I B, 30 Rickford Road, Nailsea, Bristol, BS48 4QB.
 KIDMAN MR & MRS J, Stone Croft, Upton Scudamore, Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 0AE.
 SMITH MR E, 286 Woodlands Road, Woodlands, Southampton, Hants. SO40 7GE.
 RICKETTS MR W, 16 Orchard Close, Queen Camel, Yeovil, Somerset, BA22 7NY.
 ROGERS MR M A, 11 Ashcroft Road, Sea Mills, Bristol, BS9 2NE.
 SYMES MR & MRS C & THOMPSON MRS B, 133 Magennis Close, Gosport, Hants.
 PO13 9XL.

Zone 13

MURPHY MR T E, 9 Methleigh Parc, Porthleven, Cornwall, TR13 9LJ.
 PRICE MR R W, 34 Venton Road, Falmouth, Cornwall, TR11 4JX.
 WALDIE MR J C, 4 Ridgevale Close, Gulval, Penzance, Cornwall, TR13 3RB.

Zone 14

BROWNIE MR G, 3523 Winway, San Mateo, California 94403-4212, U.S.A.
 CASEY MR J R, RO.2. Tuakau, New Zealand.
 COLFER M V & FAMILY, 125 Bay View Ave. Petoskey, MI 49770, U.S.A.
 GARTENBAU JOHANNES VAN LEUVEN, Ilmenweg 39, 47608 Geldern, Germany.
 HUDSON DR I M, 385 North Forest Road, Williamsville, New York 14221, U.S.A.
 LEINWEBBER MS J, Highland Heather, 8268 S. Gribble Rd., Canby, OR 97013.
 MARC, MS. P.P., P.O. Box 383, Peconic 11958, New York, U.S.A.
 PAVLÁK Mr M, Sokolovská 11, 674 01 Tøebie, Czech Republic.
 RODRIGUEZ MR M L, Calle Costa Verde, 9-3ªA, 28400 Collada-Villalba, Madrid, Spain.
 VIK Mr. O. Østenstadlia 3, N-1392 Vettre, Norway.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Zone 4

MAIN MR J D, Cairnbeck, Newtown, Irthington, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA6 4PF.

Zone 8

ELLIS MR E W, Llys Wenallt, Pentre Llifor, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 8QJ.

Zone 12

JESKINS MR D W, 1 Meadow View Close, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 4JQ.

Zone 13

HOGG DR C S, Mounts Bay View, Hendra Lane, Ashton, Helston, Cornwall, TR13 9TX.

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Phil Joyner

DECEASED

Zone 4

GOOCH MR F J, High Bracken, Great Salkeld, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 9NF.

Zone 5

ROBINSON MR G, 9 Shirley Avenue, Birstall, Batley, W. Yorks, WF17 9JQ.

Zone 11

MACROSTIE WING COMMANDER J S, The Croft, Canterbury Road, Brabourne Lees, Ashford, Kent.

Zone 12

KENNEDY MRS M P B, 2 Anderwood Drive, Sway, Lymington, Hants, S041 6AW.

WING MR R, The Paddock, Dartford Lane, Corsley, Warminster, Wiltshire, BA12 7NR.

RESIGNATIONS

Zone 4

ASTLE MISS M, Plum Tree Cottage, Brigsteer, Cumbria, LA8 8AN.

Zone 6

ANNABEL MRS D M, 22 Church Drive, Ravenshead, Notts. NG15 9FG.

Zone 7

DAYUS MR S, 48 Windsor Road, Queensville, Stafford, ST17 4PB.

Zone 9

CRACKNELL MR K S, Mistral, White Elm Road, Woolpit, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, IP30 9SQ.

PRETTY MR & MRS J, 24 Robinson Road, Scole, Diss, Norfolk, IP21 4EF.

WARREN MR M I, Photos Horticultural, 169 Valley Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 4PJ.

Zone 10

Mitchell Mr & Mrs C, 5 Keswick Gardens, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 7XN.

Zone 11

KENNEDY MR S P L, Panfields, Denne Park, Horsham, W. Sussex, RH13 7AX.

ROSE DR J, Dept. of Breeding & Biotechnology, HRI East Malling, West Malling, Kent, ME19 6BJ.

Zone 13

WILTON MRS K M, Well Close, Exeter Road, Braunton, Devon, EX33 2BJ.

Zone 14

LETELLIER MR J, 32 Rue de la Rhélie, 27310 Saint-Ouen-De-Thouberville, France.

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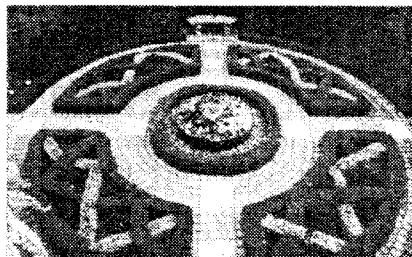
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Maurice & Daphne Everett Tel & Fax 01885 482206

E-mail: everettbannut@zetnet.co.uk

The Bannut, Bringsty, Herefordshire WR6 5TA

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