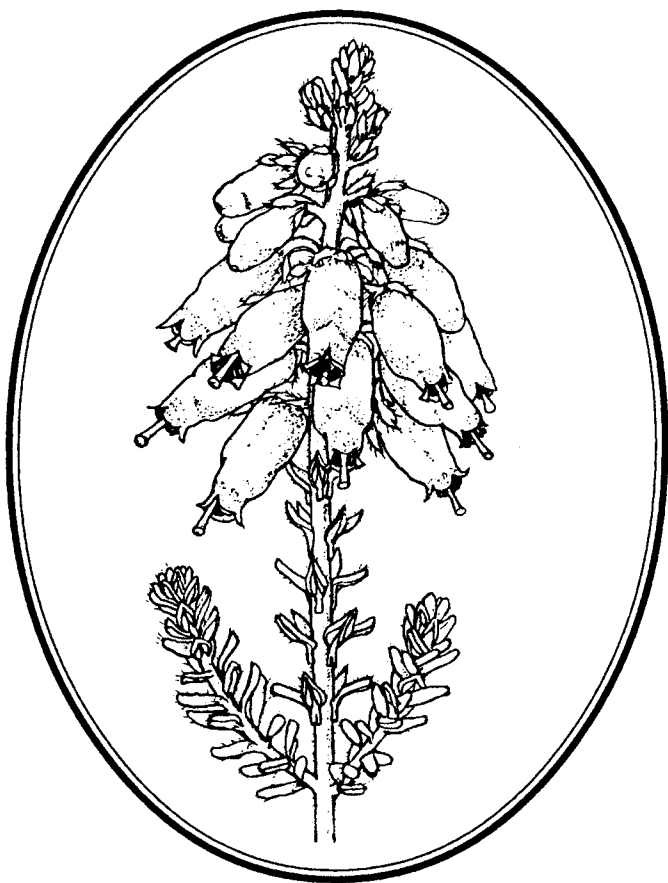


*Bulletin of The
Heather Society*



Vol. 6 No. 3

Summer 2001

DIARY OF EVENTS

2001

- | | | |
|----------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| 8 July | North East | Car outing to Chipchase Castle |
| 21 July | South West | Visit to Highbury, West Moors, Dorset |
| ? August | Yorkshire | Talk by Martin Vallance |
| 5 August | Home Counties | Visit to Hampstead Heath |

7/10 September

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

8 September North East Annual Show

15 September

CLOSING DATE FOR BULLETIN

6 October Home Counties Meeting at Wisley

2002

23 March South West Annual Indoor Meeting



A Registered Charity No. 261407

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Cover illustration *Erica ciliaris* by Brita Johannson

Our Conference Organiser, Phil Joyner, asks below, why fewer members are attending the Annual Conferences these days. Maybe it is the cost? Or does the word 'Conference' put you off? It was obviously off-putting to one member that I was chatting to recently in David McClintock's garden (see SW Group News). The word, Conference, made her think of high-powered affairs, where someone fairly new to heathers could be made to feel inadequate. I tried to reassure her and to explain that, although we had interesting talks and visits during the weekend, it was mainly a get-together of like-minded friends – old and new. Of course, it could be the fact that I am going to say a few words on the Saturday morning that has put people off!

If you have views on the subject, please do take this opportunity to let Phil (and the rest of Council) know what they are – we really want to know. You can contact him directly (see details inside the back cover), or air your views through the pages of the Bulletin. The Bulletin is intended to be the voice of the Members - so please have your say.

30th Annual Conference, 7th-10th September 2001 Three Counties Hotel, Hereford

At the time of writing, the bookings for this Conference have been disappointing and, because of this, future Conferences may be in doubt, including a proposed UK based 2nd International Conference for 2004. Perhaps it is the cost, the venues, the content or even the word "Conference" that is discouraging members from attending. The content of a Conference is well described in the programme, but what isn't described is this annual opportunity to meet old friends, make new friends and put a face to that name in the *Yearbook* or *Bulletin*. The Conference is the opportunity to socialise and talk to others about the hobby that makes us all subscribe to the same Society. If you have been thinking of coming this year and haven't done anything about it then please make your booking soon.

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.

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 grows a wide range of plants, including heathers. This will be followed by a packed lunch to be eaten somewhere on the Malvern Hills. After lunch we will be visiting *The Bannut* at Bringsty, near Bromyard, where Daphne and Maurice Everett will welcome us and show us around their garden, which includes around 1/2 acre of heathers. 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, where the Warden, David Scott, will take us on a guided tour of the Common, where *Calluna vulgaris*, *Erica cinerea* and *Erica tetralix* can be found. This will be followed by a short journey to Whitlunge Gardens, where the owners will kindly allow us to eat our packed lunch and use their toilet facilities, before looking around their beautiful, three-acre gardens. Afternoon tea will be provided.

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
Non-residents, Friday evening	£ 21
Saturday	£ 42
Sunday	£ 42

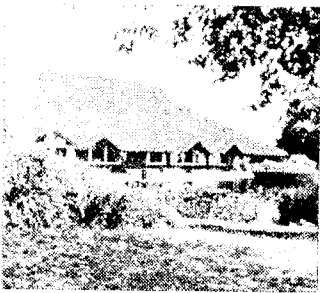
For non-residents the Friday evening includes afternoon tea and dinner. The Saturday and Sunday includes morning coffee, the visits, lunch and dinner. For non-residents attending all three days there will be a combined cost of £100, a saving of £5.

Accommodation, dining and lecture facilities have been arranged at the Three Counties Hotel just outside of 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).



Open forum at the Annual Conference

From the Conference details published, members will note that this year there will be two open forums, where members will be encouraged to participate in open discussion on any topic relating to heather growing and heather garden design.

It is appreciated that not all members will be able to attend in person, but if they have any topic they would like raised, would they please contact me and I will bring it to the attention of the meeting during either the Saturday or Sunday forums.

Arnold Stow.

Auditor Required

The Society is seeking someone with the relevant experience to audit the Society's Accounts on a yearly basis. A modest honorarium is payable. It is estimated that the work involved will take no more than a few hours per year. Would suitable applicants please contact me.

Arnold Stow.

GRATIAS

David McClintock

We had a happy time when 15 members, some from as far away as Devon, Hampshire and Herefordshire, came to see the tree heaths in my garden on 12th May.

The visit began with the Chairman presenting me with two beautifully engraved crystal goblets, one with etchings of *Calluna*, *Erica* and *Daboecia*, the larger inscribed 1965-2000 in appreciation of (my) services to the Society, with a Cornish Heath. It was a generous gift, to be long enjoyed.

Slightly later, I was also given a bottle of Jurassic wine to be used in them. I am most appreciative of the thought and for the contributions from members. Thank you - Come and see them.

Vice President -Thomas Albert Julian

1908 to 2001

Although there will be a full obituary in the *Yearbook* for Albert Julian, who died on 28th March this year, I could not let this *Bulletin* go by without a mention of a kind, modest and most remarkable man.

Back in the 1970's Albert was very involved with *The Heather Society* trials at Harlow Carr), and he continued to tend the plants personally long after the trials had finished – even sleeping over in a small hut on site. He was involved with the planting of a reference collection at Jodrell Bank and, with his wife Jean, was instrumental in setting up a National Collection of *Callunas* at Harlow Carr.

Albert was a member of Council, Chairman of the Technical Committee for several years and was involved in the mammoth preparation of the International Register. In 1991, in recognition of his outstanding service to the Society, he was elected a Vice-President. Many of Albert's family and friends, (including a good number of *Heather Society* members), gathered in the little church at Askham Richard for a service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance and Jean heroically provided an excellent lunch for around sixty people at the house afterwards.

Daphne Everett

Thirty Years Ago

30 years ago, the Editor of the Yearbook, P S Patrick, wrote the article reproduced below, in which he outlined the first five years of The Heather Society. It was interesting to read that, in 1965, "the membership was still below 500". Although membership grew to around 1500+ during the intervening 30 years, sadly, in 2001, it is not much higher than it was in 1965. (Ed.)

I have recently spent an interesting evening looking through the Year Books since the Society's commencement seven years ago. We have not been alive long enough to write a history of ourselves, and all I can do is to take out snippets of what I read that impressed me or were a reminder of a happening.

At the end of the seventh book (1970) I realised more than ever before how fortunate we have been to have such a wonderful lot of contributors, how much we all owe them for their writings and especially my great debt to them for their ready support. Dr. Samuel Johnson once wrote: 'No man but a blockhead ever wrote, except for money'. Had he lived in the 20th century he would have had to eat his words, as we, like dozens of other societies, would not be able to have a journal had we to pay for what was written.

1963. The inaugural meeting of the Society was on February 20th, 1963, when 'despite snowdrifts and winter despair' (as Mrs. MacLeod reports) there was an attendance of over 40, with 15 letters of apology, all in answer to a letter from Sir John Charrington in the *RHS Journal* the previous August 15

Furthest to travel on that wintry afternoon was Mr. FJ Chapple, from the Isle of Man, who was elected President of the Society; most of us knew him as the author of *The Heather Garden*.

We had 32 pages of reading in the first *Year Book* published in the autumn of the same year, the first six pages being taken up with the Society's beginnings. It included two articles that I hope will be reprinted in future numbers: 'Cape Heaths' by the late Dr. Ronald Gray, and 'Heathers in the Landscape' by the late WL Irvine, a landscape architect, who ended his article with wise words: 'First and last the heather landscape is smooth, rounded and continuous'. At the end of the book we had 'Questions and Answers', a selection of questions that had come to the Editor, a feature that might well be reintroduced. I blush now when I discover there were two questions from Mr. David McClintock and two from Mrs. Pamela Harper, unknown to me then but, since early days, regular contributors to this book, and from whom I have since learned such a lot!

1964. This year we mourned the death of Lt.-Colonel Donald MacLeod, DSO, MC, the first Treasurer of the Society. In a tribute to him Sir John Charrington wrote how he asked Colonel MacLeod to be the first Secretary of the Society, which he declined on the grounds of indifferent health, but suggested Mrs. MacLeod be appointed Secretary in his place. Those of us who served with him, even for so short a time, experienced a real sense of loss in his passing.

The first 'Notes on British Heathers' by David McClintock appeared in this number and has continued every year; the one on p. 25 is the seventh. The Society is under a great obligation to Mr. McClintock for these most informative

and useful articles which have meant a great deal of research and time spent in the writing of them. It is my hope that it will be possible to issue them bound together, which would be invaluable in the future to all who write on heathers.

The first contribution from the United States appeared this year, from Mrs. Esther Deutsch, of Long Island, whose death a short time later deprived the Society of a valued member and the Editor of a delightful correspondent. The same number contains an enquiry from 'Mrs. D. M. (Seattle)', whom we later came to know and appreciate as Mrs. Metheny, and whom we were so glad to meet when she showed her lovely slides of heathers at the AGM in 1969. In this number there is an article by her, most helpful to those of our members who give talks on heathers.

Fifteen members in different parts of the British Isles were asked for their twelve favourite varieties; twelve questionnaires were returned. Sixty-seven different varieties were chosen, but even then there were some notable absentees. *E. vagans* 'Mrs. D. F. Maxwell' headed the poll, with *Calluna vulgaris* 'H. E. Beale' and *E. carnea* 'Springwood White' equal second.

In September the Society staged its first heath display at an RHS fortnightly Show. This effort 'manned' by Mrs. MacLeod and members for two days has been continued since then, and attracted much attention, and is good for recruiting new members. Mrs. MacLeod rightly calls it 'our best shop window'. How good it would be if it were possible to extend these displays to provincial shows.

1965. This year 'The Northern Group' of the Society was formed which is very active and has had a major part in the making of a first-class Heather Garden at Harlow Car*, Harrogate, the headquarters of *The Northern Horticultural Society*, working in conjunction with the Gardens Superintendent, Mr. Geoffrey Smith, himself a member of this society.

In the *Year Book* it was announced that the membership was still below 500. Mrs. Pamela Harper became Editor, and an Editorial Sub-Committee had been formed. The first report of Heather Trials at Wisley were published which are of interest to many. The value of the awards given at these trials, not only to heathers, is exercising the minds of many now, but without doubt they should be a guide to a first-class plant, the knowledge of which is useful to grower and buyer alike.

We had the first contribution from New Zealand for the *Year Book* and 'Shrubs for the Heather garden' from Mrs. P Harper, beside which I see I made a pencilled note: 'full of good practical sense'. Finally there was a short article from the President on *Erica umbellata*, I was glad to be reminded of this species again as I have never seen it doing so well, or flowering over such a long period, as it has been this year. It may be the dry spring suited it, though so disastrous to some species.

1966. Shortly before the *Year Book* was published we were grieved to hear of the death of a founder Vice-President, Dr. Ronald Gray, who from our earliest days took a great interest in the Society. I shall always feel grateful to him for his friendship to me; on three successive years he wrote an article for the *Year Book*. His great delight was in the cultivation of South African Heaths, on which he was an authority, and I remember how impressed I was with his knowledge of them when he took me into his greenhouse where he had persuaded more than 60 species to flourish. So many felt they had lost a real friend when he left us.

In this year Sir John Charrington celebrated his 80th birthday. As Mrs. MacLeod wrote in her report, '..... pride of place must go to the luncheon at Wisley on 30th July, when a new "gold" *Calluna* raised by Mr. J W Sparkes, of Beoley, was launched under the name 'Sir John Charrington' in honour of the birthday'. A parent plant was given by Mr. Sparkes to Sir John. The *Year Book* contained six articles on different ways for propagating heathers, all most useful and practical. Mr. Harold Copeland of Chatham, Massachusetts ('far out at sea on the elbow of Cape Cod, with the Atlantic Ocean bordering three sides of the town'), wrote about his garden. His most recent letter tells me he has over 300 varieties now, and many heather enthusiasts find it a good place to come to for correctly-named cuttings as Mr. Copeland never charges for them. There was a most interesting article by Brigadier Weigall on 'The use of fertilisers on heathers', which, I know, caused the raising of a good many eyebrows. I wonder how many adopted his methods? Just this week (November 1970) I have heard from one who did, with great success.

1967. At the request of our Society this year the RHS. included special classes for heaths at a Spring Fortnightly Show, and for heaths and heathers in midsummer. Mrs. MacLeod reported: 'At these competitions and the Autumn Display, which for the third time won us a Silver Flora Medal, we noted that people show an increased interest in heathers'.

Mrs. Pamela Harper saw the *Year Book* into the printers' hands and then followed her husband to America: a very great loss to us in Britain, but she still retains her interest in the Society, sending me an article for this publication every year, and, from what she writes in her letters to me, spreading the 'gospel' of heather growing in her area.

There are some most excellent articles in this number. It is difficult to extract paragraphs from any one of them without taking something from all but here are some of the titles: 'Heaths and Heathers down under', an account of how the authors became interested in heathers, knowing little about them, and how they conducted their own experiments in soil, propagation, fertilisers, etc., keeping careful records all the time. Mr. Geoffrey Smith, Superintendent of the Harlow Car* Gardens, Harrogate, makes out a good case for the improvement given to a heather garden by a companion planting of dwarf conifers, birch, maple and other suitable shrubs, and dwarfbulbs. There is an interesting account of another heather garden on chalk, and another one that is gale-swept and the problems its owner has to overcome. There is an article on the *E. mackaiana* country in Connemara, Ireland, which was almost a prelude to the Society's visit to Western Ireland in the following year.

Mr. H C Prew writes with expert knowledge on the great use of magnesium sulphate in the growing of heathers; one sentence he wrote I have never forgotten, viz. 'The family Ericaceae is not so much a lime hater as an iron lover'. Breaking fresh ground for us was an instructive article 'Heathers in Flower Arrangement' by Miss F. Laughler.

This number was crammed with good things; Mrs. MacLeod still has a few copies left, price 10/- each, post -paid. For those who do not possess it, I recommend it.

* *The spelling of Harlow Car is not a mistake – the name was later changed to Harlow Carr.*

Speakers Wanted

I am frequently asked by Gardening Clubs and Horticultural Societies for a list of names of members who are willing to give talks on heathers. If any member reading this already gives talks, or would be willing to do so, please let me know, so that I can up-date my list:

- a) Your name and address, telephone, fax, e-mail number.
- b) How far you are prepared to travel.

Anne Small

Heather Burning in Eriskay A cutting from the Stornaway Gazette – sent in by Eileen Pettersen

The heather on the hills has been burning all around us for these past few days. Yesterday there were 'falaisgean' burning in Uist, Barra, Eriskay and Gighay. Indeed in the dark of the evening the island of Gighay looked as if there had been a volcanic eruption with lava flowing down its slopes! The weather has been wonderful and the aroma of the burning heather really brought spring into the air for us all. There is something very traditional about the annual lighting of the falaisgean and after the very short winter days it's lovely to be able to watch the heather burning well into the evening.

Where to find a little more on Plant Pollination, including Heathers. Ron Cleevely

Some answers to the questions on heather pollination and its agencies raised by Donald Mackay in his article from *Heather News* (Autumn 1992) re-published in the *Summer 2000 Bulletin* can be found in the recently published *The Natural History of Pollination*. by Proctor, M., Yeo, P. & Lack, A. (1996) No. 83 in the New Naturalist Library published by Harper Collins. The Editor's Preface acknowledged that this is such a fast-growing research area that its more general relationship to other aspects of natural history might be lost. The first two named authors of this new book were responsible for an earlier one in the same series *The Pollination of Flowers*, No. 54 (1973) that virtually became 'a bible'. However, the recent dramatic increase in knowledge required that it had to be completely re-written.

The authors recognise that the sight of insects busily active in flights from flower to flower has always held a fascination to observers since classical antiquity. But that any real understanding of what occurred did not begin until the closing era of the 17th century. They argued that this enduring interest in the 'flower-insect' relationship is due to the fact that it is felt that both partners benefit from the action. However, they also acknowledge that similar to these more modern and acquisitive times, the reality is that both

partners exploit one-another's services and in some circumstances, in fact, this can be very one-sided. To the biologist, there is an intellectual challenge to determine how and why such practices evolved in a competitive world during geological time, to establish exactly what occurs, as well as the precise benefits to both partners. Much of recent research on the subject has been accomplished in North America, but the results are equally applicable to understanding pollination relationships wherever they occur [a lengthy reference section pp 426-462 is given].

But the word 'agencies' used by Donald Mackay, indicates that other methods, besides insects, are adopted by certain heathers, to achieve their objective, such as wind, birds and possibly other animals (see *Yearbook* 1999:39, where Ted Oliver concludes that the piles of flower heads taken from his new species of the prostrate Cape *E. hanekomii* are the work of foraging mice).

Just quickly using the references given to *Erica* &c. in this book I have found the following, which might be of interest and add to the previous article:

A chapter on Pollination through Geological Time dealing with the general evolution of flowering plants states (p. 379) that it is believed that the general flowers of heathers evolved during the Cretaceous, this was the time when all the flowers of the angiosperms developed, but this was in at least two major phases. In a few families, including the Ericaceae, the four initial cells of the pollen grain remain fixed together as a tetrad (p. 29). The tremendous diversity of flowers in the Cape heathers must have occurred rather later.

An account of the 'urceolate' flowers, i.e. that narrow to the mouth, commonly found in the heather family are mainly pollinated by bees e.g. the small flowers of *E. cinerea*. However, the slightly larger flowers of *E. tetralix* are also visited by the long-tongued bumble-bee *Bombus pascuorum*. It was once thought that *E. tetralix* was pollinated by thrips, or even 'selfed', but although this is undoubtedly true in some places, (see below) it is not general. In fact, it has been noted that the larger-flowered Ericaceae, including bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*) and St. Dabeoc's Heath (*Daboecia cantabrica*) are visited by bumblebees which 'buzz' the flower to get the pollen. Some plants, notably the 'shooting-stars' with reflexed petals (*Dodecatheon*), but also the small-flowered cranberries (*Vaccinium*) have adapted to ensure that the resonance & vibration of such 'buzzing' which results in the shedding of the pollen, is not diminished by other conditions.

In a detailed summary of the seasonal activity of British bees (p. 111-2) it appears that July is the most significant month for species of *Colletes* and the longer-tongued *Andrena* emerge, the first favours *Calluna* and the latter *E. cinerea*. *Calluna* flowers are also amongst the most those most commonly visited by butterflies (p. 85). Certain families of wasps, the non-social short-tongued wasps, visit flowers to feed on nectar and have been recorded on *Calluna* (p. 103), but are not thought to be significant as pollinators.

Enlarging on the comments of Mackay, a brief discussion (p. 51) of thrips (Thysanoptera), mentions that, flower-visiting species of these minute insects can act as pollinators of *Calluna* and *E. tetralix* where bees and butterflies are rare e.g. in the Faroes. They are specialised feeders on pollen, sucking out the

contents of the grains, but the pollen can get caught on the bristles of their bodies and be transferred.

In a table of flower forms pollinated by birds (p. 238), listing categories as: Gullet flowers; Tubular flowers; Brush-flowers; and Capitula; species of *Erica* from South Africa and *Macleania* from Tropical America (Ericaceae) are included under the 'Tubular' category. Many of the dominant plants and shrubs of high altitudes in Africa, including several *Erica* species are pollinated by sunbirds (p. 394).

Another interesting fact revealed (p. 266) by counts of 'pollen rain' conducted at eight sites in Great Britain in 1943, was that 14 grains per sq. centimetre of *Calluna* were collected. It was nineteenth in the list - (with grass pollen top & extremely abundant) - and that not surprisingly of the eight sites, Edinburgh had the highest number (43) and Cambridge (2) the least amount of *Calluna*. Another count carried out on the roof of the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff only recorded a small amount of *Calluna* pollen in August. It is explained elsewhere (p. 285) that the occurrence of the non-sticky pollen of this insect-pollinated plant in such rain can be expected for it is probably the result of the need to strike a balance between two methods. It is suggested (p. 386), that wind pollination might be advantageous to plants which commonly occur on exposed habitats such e.g. *Calluna*, but that it is important that such wind-pollinated plants have well-defined flowering seasons.

Discussing pollination in the community and the environment (p. 397), it is emphasized this 'flowering time' is of particular importance in pollination. Although regarded as flexible, most plants have established a characteristic flowering period and that in the north temperate areas of western Europe & North America, the heather mostly flowers in late summer. This is thought to be a conservative character and suggests that the plants do not respond to prevailing ecological conditions. This pattern may be due to inherited development constraints, but it does mean that where such plants are dominant there will be many flowers available at a certain time of the year, but they then become dependent that their pollinators are present. At the present stage of knowledge, the full implication of this is not understood, although there is evidence that selection can overcome these constraints and a fixed 'flowering-time' can shift in some environments. Such a response to ecological conditions has been noticed where two species compete for pollinators. In North America Ericaceae, the mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) is automatically self-fertilising in the presence of *Vaccinium erythrocarpum* but behaves normally when it is absent. Both are pollinated by bees, but the *Kalmia* is completely ignored where the *Vaccinium* occurs and it is suggested that this might be due to the larger amount of pollen grains available.

There is not space to consider other important factors such as flower scent and flower colour that influence the pollination by various insects. In a detailed account of the effect of flower colours, the purple of *Calluna vulgaris* as seen by bees, is said to be blue (p.132).

In conclusion, I hope that these few snippets demonstrate that 'pollination' is an extremely involved subject, but many details of relevant research can be discovered in this very readable and well-indexed book.

Queries through our website

Through the Society's Website, David Small receives many questions on the subject of heather.

Two of these, with David's answers, are given below.

Question: I would like to speak with someone who knows *Daboecia cantabrica*. I work with another species of *Daboecia*, *D. azorica* in Azores Portugal. I would like to know the geographic distribution of *D. cantabrica* and I would like to know if there is any publication that refers to this species suggesting it could have digestive glandules in their structure, or any other mechanism of catching and "eating" insects.

Answer: *D. cantabrica* is found in W. Ireland, S.W. France and N.W. Iberia.

As far as we are aware *D. cantabrica* does not have any 'digestive' glandules in their structure although the stems and calyx are glandular and capable of trapping small insects. However, these are not digested by the plant. We believe the purpose of the glands is either to deter grazing by animals or an attempt to 'select' pollinating insects.

Looking at heathers in general, including Cape heaths, we have no good answer for the glandular hairs. Perhaps those around the flower on the leaves, bracts and calyx have some function of keeping away unwanted pollinators (ants and other creepy crawlies) from getting at the nectar or perhaps in the longer flowered species prevent frustrated bees with short mouth parts from boring in at the base of the corolla to get at the nectar.

Some South African species go to great lengths, *Erica aristata* for instance the whole plant is very sticky, including the flowers. It is only the lobes at the tip of the corolla which are not sticky allowing a very limited range of insects with long 'noses' to alight on the lobes like a helicopter platform and pollinate it.

In *Erica*, in South Africa, there is clear evidence for selective pollination agents in the shape, size and colour of the corolla. The long-tubed species with an open corolla mouth require birds, those with a very narrow corolla mouth require the long-nosed flies (e.g. *E. aristata*). The length of the corolla tube is geared to the length of the 'nose' of the different species of flies. Those with short open corollas are obviously geared for bees and other similar sized and mouthed insects. The smallest flowered species have of course lost their size, colour and nectaries and gained a large stigma (pollen antenna!). (*E. scoparia* in Europe behaves in much the same fashion). These aspects are mentioned in the paper by Rebelo, Siegfried and E.G. H. Oliver on pollination syndromes in *Erica* (South African Journal of Botany 51: 270-280 (1985)).

Clearly, we are very interested in the work you are doing and if you have any evidence to suggest that

D. azorica does have digestive glandules, we would very much like to hear from you.

Question: I cannot find two names in the 1998/99 edition of the *Handy Guide to Heathers*, they are "Snowcap" and "Snowstorm". Can you help please and suggest alternatives.

Answer: The cultivars in question are: *Erica carnea* 'Schneekuppe' (Snowcap) White flowers, Jan-Mar, with bright green (RHS 137B) foliage. Neat, compact habit. 15cm tall, 30cm spread and *Erica carnea* 'Schneesturm' (Snowstorm) White flowers, Feb-Apr, with bright green (or dark green, RHS 139A) foliage. Neat compact habit. 15cm tall, 40cm spread.

These names are used by one of the large wholesale producers but it is against the *Code of the International Commission for the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants* which *The Heather Society* is charged with upholding. You are no longer allowed to translate foreign names.

Alternatives to these are *E. carnea* 'Isabell' or 'Ice Princess' for 'Schneekuppe' And *E. carnea* 'Winter Snow' for 'Schneesturm'

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

And www.heathersociety.org.uk/handy_guide.html

Auction of Valuable Books on Heather Growing - from 1927

Mr. Botrill from Truro, Cornwall has kindly donated his collection of books to the Society. - our warmest thanks go to him for his generous offer. It was felt that, in order to keep this valuable collection within the Society, the books should be offered to members by way of a postal auction.

The list of books is as follows:

The Heather Garden by Fred J. Chapple revised edition 1964, *The English Heather Garden* by D. Fyfe Maxwell & P.S. Patrick first edition, *Heaths and Heathers* by Terry L. Underhill second impression 1972, *The Low Road* by D. Fyfe Maxwell first edition 1927, *Hardy Heaths* by A.T. Johnson revised edition 1956, *Hardy Heaths and the Heather Garden* by John F. Letts first edition August 1966.

All the books have their dust jackets, with the exception of *The Low Road*, the cover of which is rather stained and scribbled comments are on one of the pages. A reserve price of £5.00 on each of the books is applicable. Please send your offers to Anne Small by Tuesday 31st July 2001.

Arnold Stow.

Group News

North East

Again, our Annual Outing on May 5th was a highlight in our calendar of events when 44 of us, mostly friends, went to Paxton House near Berwick. Although cool, the sun shone the whole day and the parkland was carpeted in various species of daffodil. It was a magnificent sight, and had everyone ooh-ing and aah-ing. The House too, was full of interest with a great history

and a romantic, but sad, story.

Our next outing is a car outing to Belsay Hall Garden to see the rhododendrons on Wednesday, June 6th. Please meet in the Car Park at 3.00pm. Fortunately, this has just been re-opened to the public now that the terrible scourge of Foot and Mouth disease is, seemingly, on the wane.

Chipchase Castle is our second Car Outing to be held on Sunday, July 8th, meeting in the Car Park at 2.00 p.m. The most direct route is the A6079 out of Hexham passing through Wall, Low Brunton and then turning Left at Chollerton onto a 'C' road. Chipchase is about 2+ miles further along this road.

Saturday, September 8th, is the Annual Show held in the Memorial Hall, Ponteland, Staging is from 9.00am - 11.00am, when judging commences, and is open to the public from 1.00 - 4.30 p.m. All exhibits to be removed at the end of the show. Schedules will be sent nearer the time.

The A.G.M. will be held in St. Matthew's Church Hall, Ponteland, on Friday, October 19th, at 7.30 p.m. We will have our usual Faith Supper to end the evening. All contributions towards this will be gratefully received on the night. Have a good summer and we look forward to seeing you at all these events.

Dorothy M. Warner.

Yorkshire

On Saturday, 10th March 2001 members gathered for the annual general meeting of the Yorkshire Heather Group when officers were re-elected unopposed for a further year. Arrangements were made for a further three meetings this coming year. Then a discussion took place about the proposed merger of *The Northern Horticultural Society* and *The Royal Horticultural Society*. This was followed by tea and biscuits and the meeting ended with "A Glimpse of the Slide Library".

The Heather Society holds a collection of approximately 4,000 photographic slides of heather gardens and their design, the national collections, portraits of summer flowering, winter flowering heathers, tree heaths and Cape heaths, botanical slides and those showing the diversity of heathers. These are available for *Heather Society* members to borrow for lecturing purposes or their personal use, the fee being the cost of postage both ways. A selection of 150 slides was shown to the delight of the heather group.

On Saturday, 9th June, Colin Hawes of Harrogate & Ripon Beekeepers Society will give a talk and demonstration on "Heather and Honey". There will be an outing in July to see the *Erica cinerea* at the home of Dr. Brian Roberts, Roundhay, Leeds. Then on a Wednesday afternoon in August (moved forward from 15th September) Martin Vallance will give us a lecture on Heather Moors and their regeneration following the effects of sheep grazing. (The dates of these latter two events will be confirmed at the meeting on Saturday, 9th June and absent members will be notified.)

Jean Julian

Home Counties

Seventeen members visited Bracken Hill on Saturday May 12th for the presentation to founder member David McClintock, in appreciation of his

service to the Society since 1963. The award consisted of one large engraved goblet suitably inscribed together with a smaller vase suitable for a small heather arrangement.



Presentation to David McClintock

In making the award the Chairman, Arnold Stow, paid tribute to David for all of his efforts during nearly forty years of his membership including ten years as a worthy President, in addition to his legendary card index system, which was so vital in the preparation of the recently published International Register.

Afterwards members were able to wander around his most interesting garden and later stare in wonder at the vast range of books in David's most impressive library.

In the morning the members were taken on a tour of nearby *Great Comp Garden*, by Eric Cameron. Apart from the heathers and impressive trees, our attention was drawn to the numerous recently constructed "ruins" built by Mr. Cameron from stones excavated from the garden. A very full, rewarding and memorable day.

Arnold Stow

An excellent meeting took place on 17 March at the Headquarters of *The Royal National Rose Society*, near St Albans. David and Anne Small kindly provided a large amount of cutting material, compost, scissors and sand and David demonstrated the art of propagation. The members were quickly involved, filling pots with compost and merrily snipping away, popping the cuttings into the compost following David's instructions. We are now eagerly awaiting the results, hopefully we shall be able to report on progress after the next meeting.

It is proposed to meet on 5 August to see the heather planting on Hampstead Heath, in order to re-establish what was formerly natural heath. We will meet for lunch at 12.00 at The Spaniards (there is limited parking at The Spaniards, otherwise parking is available at nearby Kenwood House). After lunch we will pay a quick visit to Kenwood House (entrance free) followed by a walk on the Heath. Please note these are provisional arrangements and have still to be confirmed - please give me a ring (01442 254880) or e-mail (Derek.Millis@care4free.net) if you would like to join us and to confirm the details.

Our usual autumn Wisley meeting will take place on 6 October. We shall meet outside the RHS shop at 11.00 a.m. prior to visiting the grounds, please will RHS members bring their Membership Cards, free entry will be available for up to 55 non-members. The afternoon meeting will commence at 2.00 p.m. in the Lecture Room (no access from the Garden), our Chairman, Arnold Stow,

has kindly agreed to give a talk entitled 'Heather, Plants and People'. There will be a heather competition and the classes will be:

- i) best flower arrangement in which heathers predominate
- ii) best vase of hardy heather in flower, single variety
- iii) best vase of heather chosen for foliage

The Turpin Trophy (currently held by John Tucker) will be awarded for the best flower arrangement in which heathers predominate.

Further details of the Wisley meeting and the Hampstead Heath visit will be announced in a newsletter. Members of other groups are of course welcome to come to either or both of the above events; it would be appreciated if you could contact me (details above) to let me know of your wish to participate. I look forward to seeing as many people as possible.

Derek Millis

South West

It is with regret that I have to report the passing away of two South West Group members, Don Randall from Devon and Douglas Chalk from Somerset. Both were keen supporters of *The Heather Society* and have supported South West Local Group meetings over the years. Don's wife June ran the Far South West Local Group from 1979 to 1986 and they both organised the Falmouth Conference in 1983. Douglas with his wife Diana owned the hebe and heather nursery of Polden Acres near Bridgwater and he served on the Technical Committee of *The Heather Society* between 1979 and 1989. On your behalf I would like to extend our deepest sympathy to Don's wife June and to Diana, wife of Douglas.

On Saturday 24th March, South West Group members met at the Lytchett Matravers Village Hall in Dorset for a lecture with Table Show. The weather was dull but dry and mild, a change from the very wet weather we have experienced in the South this winter and spring. I was pleased to have many of our regular members present totalling 28 including the speaker, her husband and myself. I was also pleased to welcome the Chairman, Arnold Stow and his wife Josey.



Daphne Everett speaking at the March meeting

The speaker for the afternoon was Daphne Everett who with her husband Maurice had travelled all the way from Hereford that morning to be with us during the afternoon. Daphne gave an illustrated talk on the history of heather growing including mention of the use of heather through the ages. Daphne also included Cape Heaths and there were some slides of Daphne and Maurice's garden at The Bannut. After the talk and several questions, the members enjoyed the social part of the afternoon taking refreshment and chatting on our favourite topic. The Table Show was then judged and the results were as follows:

Class 1 A vase or bowl of Heathers in bloom

1st Maureen Clark 2nd Jennifer Turrell 3rd Anne Pringle

Class 2 A vase or bowl of Heathers shown for foliage effect

1st Anne Pringle 2nd Phil Joyner 3rd Jennifer Turrell

Anne Pringle was the winner of the Burfitt Bowl for the most points overall but prizes were presented to the members placed in the competition. My thanks goes to my wife Lin, Joan Vicary and several of the members for their work in the kitchen. Thanks are also due to Lorna Farrow for judging the Table Show and once again to Daphne for her interesting talk.

The second meeting of the year was held on Saturday, 28th April and was a return to the Yellow Book garden of Stourton House in Wiltshire. This garden is on the opposite side of the National Trust car park of the famous garden of Stourhead. Thirteen members gathered in the car park at 2.00pm in bright sunshine but then quickly dashed down the driveway as a heavy downpour approached. We were briefly welcomed by Elizabeth Bullivant who showed us into a conservatory to escape the worse of the rain and then gave us a description of the garden and a brief history. By the time it was ready to go into the garden the rain had fortunately stopped and we set off in sunshine again, although a little wet underfoot. A lovely display of spring flowering plants, shrubs, bulbs and one or two heathers greeted us and Elizabeth accompanied us and described several features in the garden. We managed to avoid further downpours and at the end of the afternoon we were treated to cups of tea and home-made cake served by Elizabeth's daughter. My thanks goes to Elizabeth for her and her daughter's hospitality.

The Remainder of the Year

Saturday 21st July - The meeting on this day will be comprise of two visits to Yellow Book gardens, a morning visit to Aurelia Gardens just outside of West Moors in Dorset and an afternoon visit to the garden of Highbury in the village of West Moors. Members should meet from 11.00am onwards in the car park of Aurelia Gardens where we will be greeted by Robert and Magdalene Knight who have created the garden from a flat field site since 1992. This will be our third visit the last being in 1997 and we shall see the garden in a further stage of its development. The themes of the garden are golden plants and plants with golden variegation. The various coloured heather cultivars form a large part of this garden. A small nursery also shares the site together with rare breed Poultry. The garden is situated in Newmans Lane just outside the north end of the West Moors village. West Moors is reached by leaving the A31, Ferndown by-pass at the junction of the



Anne Pringle accepting the Burfitt Bowl

B3072 Ferndown to Three Legged Cross road and travelling the short distance north along the B3072 into the village of West Moors and then travelling on through the village. Shortly after leaving the village a sharp right hand bend is encountered and Newmans Lane leads off to the left. Parking is available in Aurelia Gardens and there will be an entry charge for the garden. Picnic lunches may be brought along and eaten in the car park. Toilet facilities are available in West Moors village. After bidding farewell to Robert and Magdalene we will be visiting the garden of Highbury in the village of West Moors and members should arrive by 2.00pm. Highbury is a half acre garden owned by Stanley Cherry. Members visited this garden in 1992 during the month of May and saw a garden of rare plants and shrubs. Stanley 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 will provide refreshment during the afternoon. The garden is situated in Woodside Road at the north end of the West Moors village. Woodside Road is the first road on the left hand side as you re-enter the village. Parking is available in the road and there will be an entry charge for the garden and a charge for refreshment.

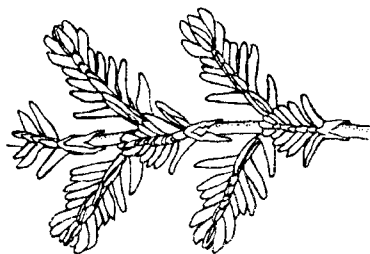
Further Dates for your Diary

I shall not be arranging a meeting in September this year, once again due to other commitments, but the Home Counties Group will be holding a meeting at Wisley on Saturday, October 6th and the members of the South West Group are very welcome to attend - as indeed members from other groups are also welcome to attend our meetings. The details of this event will be found elsewhere in this Bulletin.

Saturday 23rd March 2002 - Annual indoor meeting at 2.00 p.m. at the Lytchett Matravers Village Hall. A talk will be arranged, more details in the Autumn Bulletin.

If you intend to come to a meeting I would be grateful if you could let me know about 10 days before beforehand (Tel: 023 80864336). I would like to emphasise that the meetings are open, not only to local group members, but to all *Heather Society* members and their friends. Once again I am grateful to those people who make the visits possible and I look forward to seeing you at those meetings.

Phil Joyner



Nurseryman members

W = wholesale nursery only. Retail customers are reminded that wholesale nurseries are strictly that and will not welcome retail enquiries. R = retail nursery. MO = nursery will supply by mail order

Zone 1 - Scotland

W	R	MO	
Yes	No	No	Mr. & Mrs. G Gow, Perthshire Heathers, The Farl, Forgandenny, PERTH, PH2 9DB.
Yes	Yes	Yes	Mr. & Mrs. J Davidson, Highland Heathers, Muirend, COMRIE, PERTSHIRE, PH6 2JA.
Yes	Yes	Yes	Mr. D.A. Lambie, Speyside Heather Centre, West End, Skye of Curr, DULNAIN BRIDGE, INVERNESS-SHIRE, PH26 3PA.
Yes	Yes	No	Mr. D. Sturrock, Angus Plants & Crafts, Crosston Farm, by Letham, FORFAR, ANGUS, DD8 2NZ.

Zone 2 - Ireland

W	R	MO	
Yes	Yes	No	Mr. & Mrs. D. Kerins, Fernhurst Garden Nurseries, Killowen, KENMARE, CO. KERRY, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND
No	Yes	No	Mr. G. Willis, Kiltiernan Nurseries, Old Post Office, KILTERNAN, CO. DUBLIN, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND.

Zone 3 - England: Northeast

W	R	MO	
Yes	Yes	No	Mr. & Mrs. W. Crow, Starraig Nead, Scots Gap, MORPETH, NORTHUMBERLAND, NE61 4EQ.

Zone 4 - England: Northwest

W	R	MO	
Yes	Yes	Yes	Mr. S. Crabtree, Eversley Nursery, 10 Granville Avenue, Hesketh Bank, PRESTON, LANCASHIRE, PR4 6AH.
Yes	No	No	Mr. T. Foden, Foden Nurseries, Rowley House, Kermincham, HOLMES CHAPEL, CHESHIRE, CW4 8DX.
No	Yes	Yes	Mr. P.J. Foley, Holden Clough Nursery, Holden, Bolton By Bowland, CLITHEROE, LANCASHIRE, BB7 4PF.
Yes	Yes	No	The Nurseries Holmes of Natland, Natland, KENDAL, CUMBRIA, LA9 7QC.
Yes	Yes	Yes	Mr. T.J. Okell, Okell's Nurseries, Duddon Heath, Nr. TARPORLEY, CHESHIRE CW6 0EP.

Zone 7 - England: West Midlands

W	R	MO	
Yes	Yes	No	Mr. & Mrs. R. Warner, Barncroft Nurseries, Dunwood Lane, Longsdon, STOKE-ON-TRENT, STAFFORDSHIRE, ST9 9QW.

Zone 8 - Cymru (Wales)

W	R	MO	
Yes	No	No	Mr. & Mrs. N Croft, Glynwern Heather Nurseries, Cilcennin, LAMPETER, DYFED SA48 8RJ.

Zone 11 - England: Southern

W	R	MO	
Yes	Yes	No	Mr. & Mrs. R.W.S. Biggs, Bodiam Nursery, Ockham House, Bodiam, ROBERTSBRIDGE EAST SUSSEX, TN32 5RA.
No	Yes	No	Mr. & Mrs. J. Francis, The Nursery, 37 Stone Lane, WORTHING, W. SUSSEX, BN13 2BA.
Yes	Yes	Yes	Mr. J. Martin, Hillway Nursery, Felbridge, EAST GRINSTEAD, RH19 2PS.
No	Yes	No	Mr. S. Moody, 2 Chiltern Cottages, Vicarage Lane, Burwash Common, ETCHINGHAM, E. SUSSEX TN19 7LN.

Zone 12 - England: Southwest

W	R	MO	
Yes	No	No	Mr. D. M. Edge, Forest Edge Nursery, Verwood Road, Woodlands, WIMBORNE, DORSET, BH21 6LJ.
Yes	No	No	Mr. M.C.C. Skinner, Combe Florey Nursery, Combe Florey, TAUNTON, SOMERSET TA4 3JE.

Zone 13 - England: Far West

W	R	MO	
Yes	No	Yes	Mr. A. Powell, Talaton Plants, 1 Ivy Cottages, Talaton, EXETER, DEVON, EX5 2SD.

Zone 14.1 - Australasia

W R MO

No Yes Yes Mrs. C. Coe, Coehaven Nursery, 150 Rangiuuru Road, OTAKI, NEW ZEALAND

Yes Yes No Mrs. M.L. Hughes, Blue Mountain Nurseries, 99 Bushy Hill Street, Tapanui, WEST OTAGO, NEW ZEALAND.

Yes No No Mr. & Mrs. D.A. Phillips, Ericaflora, P.O. Box 206, MONBULK, VICTORIA 3793, AUSTRALIA.

Zone 14.2 - Canada

W R MO

No Yes Yes Mr. D. Wilson, 6605 Hopedale Road, CHILLIWACK, BRITISH COLUMBIA V2R 4L4, CANADA.

Zone 14.3 - Europe

W R MO

Yes No No Mr. H.W. de Bruijn, Insteek 46, 2771 AB BOSKOOP, NEDERLAND.

No Yes No Karmøy Lyngsenter Vignsnes A/S, Vignsnes, N-4262 AVALDSNES, NORWAY.

Yes No No Mr. K. Kramer, Edammer Straße 26, 26188 EDEWECHT, GERMANY.

Yes No No Hr. O. Søndergaard, Gl. Sundsvej 15, DK-7451 SUNDSS, DENMARK.

Yes Yes No Mr. G. Van Hoef, Esweg 15, 3771 BARNEVELD, NEDERLAND.

Yes No No Gartenbau Johannes van Leuven, Ilmenweg 39, 47608 Geldern, GERMANY.

No Yes No Mr. H. Westermann, Baumschulenweg 2, 29646 BISPINGEN, GERMANY.

Zone 14.6 - U.S.A.

W R MO

No Yes No Mrs. G. Couch-Carlberg, Glenmar Heather Nursery Inc., P.O. Box 479, BAYSIDE, CA 95524-0479, U.S.A.

Yes Yes Yes Miss K. Herrick, Rock Spray Nursery inc., Box 693, TRURO, MA 02666, U.S.A.

No No Yes Mrs. K.L. Lortz, Heaths & Heathers, E. 502 Haskell Hill Road, SHELTON, WA 98584, U.S.A.

Yes Yes No Mr. A.H. Pilch, Log House Herbs, 70 Ajuga Drive, SYLVA, NORTH CAROLINA 28779, U.S.A.

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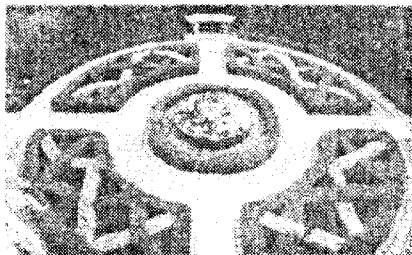
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Maurice & Daphne Everett

Tel & Fax 01885 482206

E-mail: everettbannut@zetnet.co.uk

The Bannut, Bringsty, Herefordshire WR6 5TA



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