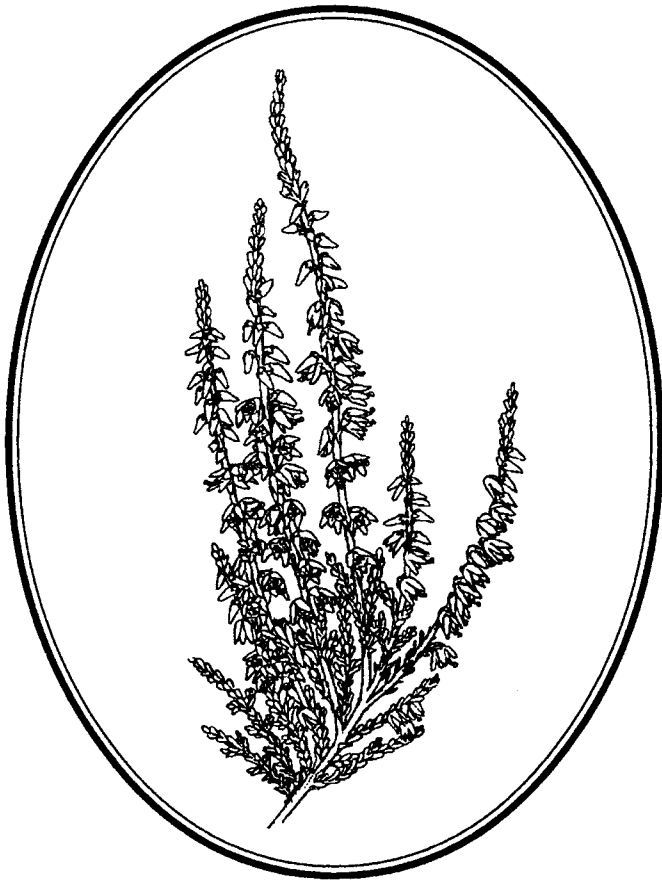


*Bulletin of The  
Heather Society*



*Vol. 6 No. 7*

*Autumn 2002*

## DIARY OF EVENTS

### 2003

January	15	CLOSING DATE FOR SPRING BULLETIN
March	22	South West Group Indoor Meeting, Lytchett Matravers
May	15	CLOSING DATE FOR SUMMER BULLETIN

### Talks on Heathers

**'Heaths and Heathers' A.J.Stow 01494 449497**

### 2003

January	9	Chalfont St Giles
February	3	Hurley nr Maidenhead
March	19	Chalfont St Peter
March	24	Eastbury nr Uxbridge
May	20	Biddenham nr Bedford
July	2	Kidlington nr Oxford

***'From Crofter's Bed to Queen of Spain - the Story of Heather'.***

**Daphne Everett 01885 482206**

### 2002

November	9	Hardy Plant Society, Drakes Broughton, Worcs.
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### 2003

February	24	Leominster Gardening Club, Herefordshire
March	3	Birmingham Botanical Gardens
March	6	Llangrove Gardening Club, Ross on Wye
April	10	Barnt Green, Gardening Club, nr. Birmingham
June	19	Tredington Gardening Club, Warwickshire
October	20	Minchinhampton Gardening Club, Stroud



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Editor: Daphne Everett, The Bannut, Bringsty, Herefordshire, WR6 5TA.  
Telephone/Fax: 01885 482206 e-mail: everettbannut@zetnet.co.uk

Cover illustration *Calluna vulgaris* by Brita Johansson

*No doubt you have heard of fruit-eating bats, honey-eating bears, man-eating tigers and ant-eating, well, anteaters – but have you heard of heather eating Shelties? Jenny started it. A couple of years ago, as she ran along the path between the heather beds she started biting off and eating mouthfuls of heather as she went, and before long, Daisy, (who always does what Jenny does) was doing the same. It is quite a useful habit, even if the result is somewhat ragged, but not one I have ever come across before.*

*Congratulations to Mrs. Brita Johansson, who was invited to Gotland last August by the biggest plant society in Sweden, Riksförbundet Svensk Trädgård to be presented with their medal for her work within gardening, a high accolade indeed.*

## **The Annual Gathering of the Heather Society** **32nd Annual Conference, September 5th - 8th, 2003**

The 2003 Annual Gathering of the Heather Society will be held in the historic city of Chester. Accommodation, dining and lecture facilities have been arranged at the Ramada Jarvis hotel. The hotel has an indoor pool, a sauna, spa bath and a gymnasium. The hotel is situated in Christleton, on the outskirts of Chester on the A55 within easy reach of junction 12 of the M53. The nearest railway station is close by in Chester. The beautiful scenery of North Wales and the Welsh Borders is near by and the whole area, particularly Chester, is full of historical interest and many attractions so why not arrange a holiday in the area around that weekend. The accommodation booked consists of 14 single rooms and 12 double/twin rooms. The highlight of the weekend will be a visit to the University of Liverpool Botanic Gardens at Ness, in the Wirral, where we will have a presentation and a guided tour with Ken Hulme a retired Director of the Gardens. Also we are fortunate to have the offer of a separate talk from Peter Cunnington the recently retired Curator of those same gardens. The second visit of the weekend will be to Okell's Nurseries where we will also have a guided tour and have a chance to view heather production. A draft programme consisting of these visits, talks and open forums is being prepared and will be announced in the Spring *Bulletin*. Please note that the Conference is a social gathering and is an opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. There will be plenty of time available to relax

and discuss our favourite subject. Please note that the date of this gathering is a week later than previously announced.

The all inclusive cost for the whole weekend will be between £205 and £210 per person and will be announced in the Spring Bulletin. 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 is not a deposit on the cost of the conference. If all the booked rooms are taken then there may be the possibility of booking more rooms, otherwise subsequent bookings will be accepted 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 local Tourist Information office will be provided to aid bed and breakfast enquires. I will be pleased to answer any queries relating to this 2003 Gathering by telephone (023 8086 4336 evenings and weekends) or E-mail: [pjoyner@supanet.com](mailto:pjoyner@supanet.com).

### **The 2nd International Heather Society Conference - 2004**

In 2000 the 1st International Heather Conference was held in Germany and it is the intention of *The Heather Society* to host the 2nd International Conference in Scotland in 2004. It is hoped that many heather lovers from Europe, the USA and other countries will join members of this Society at this gathering. The intention is to hold the International Conference instead of our Annual Gathering in late August or early September.

### **Annual General Meeting 31<sup>st</sup> August 2002**

The Chairman, Arnold Stow, reminded members of the sad death of David McClintock earlier in the year. For many years, David had made it his regular duty, to search the publications in the Lindley Library for any mention of heathers, for inclusion in the *Yearbook*. Although Arnold didn't expect anyone else in the Society to take on this task single-handed, he appealed to members to send anything that they might read in magazines and newspapers to the *Yearbook* editor.

David Mayne and Bob Rope, both Council Members of many years standing, had decided it was time that they stood down. Arnold thanked them both for all they had contributed to the Society over the years.

Alice Knight, a long-time supporter of *The Heather Society*, and a founder member of *The North American Heather Society*, was made Vice-President.

The Secretary, Jean Julian, announced that Member numbers appear to have stabilised at 562 for the time being, with 25% of the membership coming from overseas. Fifty copies of the International Register have been sold to date and progress is being made with volume 2 (South African heathers), which is expected to be ready in 2004.

The Society's booklets have been selling well. The third in the series (Companion Plants to Heathers) has been written, but publication has been held up for lack of relevant photographs.

National collections at Wisley and Cherrybank are doing well. Harlow Carr

has recently been taken over by the RHS and changes have been made which should result in a *Calluna* collection on a much improved site in the next year or so.

The Treasurer, Tony Princep, presented the audited accounts and reported that the Society is in a fairly healthy state financially.

There was a lively discussion on proposals to alter various items in the Society's Rules and Constitution. The most important being to try and ensure that, due to the drop in our membership, there will be a sufficient number present at any future AGM to enable it take place. The new rules state that the quorum for an AGM will be fifteen - with the majority being ordinary (not Council) members.

It was announced that the 2003 Conference will now take place from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> September 2003 and not at the date mentioned previously.

## **RHS Show, Wisley - 20 to 22 August 2002**

### **Heather Competition**

#### **Class 1. Three distinct heathers, species or variants in bloom**

First	<i>Erica cinerea</i>	'Champs Hill'
		'Alfred Bowerman'
		'Margaret Bowerman'
Second	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	'Barbara Fleur'
		'Beoley Gold'
	<i>Erica cinerea</i>	'Eden Valley'
Third.	<i>Daboecia cantabrica</i>	'Pink' (synonym of
		'Donard Pink'
	<i>Erica cinerea</i>	'P S Patrick'
	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	'Silver Rose'

#### **Class 2. *Erica vagans***

First	'Viridflora'
Second	'Hookstone Rosea'
Third	'Mrs D F Maxwell'

#### **Class 3. *Calluna vulgaris* - single coloured variant**

First	'Carmen'
Second	Seedling
Third	'E Hoare'

#### **Class 4. *Calluna vulgaris* - double coloured variant**

First	'County Wicklow'
Second	'Red Favorit'
Third	'H E Beale'

**Class 5. *Calluna vulgaris* – single 'double white**

- First 'Elegant Pearl'  
 'Mairs Variety' (not placed)  
 'White Coral' (not placed)

**Class 6. *Calluna vulgaris* – bud Bloomers**

- First 'Alexandra'  
 Second 'Roodkapje'  
 'Amethyst' (not placed)

**Class 7. *Erica cinerea***

- First 'Champs Hill;  
 Second 'Eden Valley'  
 Third var. *rendlei*

**Class 8. *Daboecia***

- First 'Cupido'  
 'Hookstone Purple' (not placed)  
 'Rainbow' (not placed)

**Class 9. Any not specified above**

- |        |                            |                     |
|--------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| First  | <i>Erica ciliaris</i>      | 'Camla'             |
| Second | <i>Erica x griffithsii</i> | 'Heaven Scent'      |
| Third  |                            | 'Valerie Griffiths' |

**Class 10. Any heather – for foliage**

- |        |                            |                 |
|--------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| First  | <i>Erica arborea</i>       | 'Albert's Gold' |
| Second | <i>Erica x darleyensis</i> | 'Thing Nee'     |
| Third  | <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>    | 'Arran Gold'    |

**Class 11. Decorative Class – heathers in a basket**

First & Second

Mary Bowerman, who sent in the above report wrote: "A disappointing Competition at Wisley this last week, as we were competing only against ourselves! I know this is how Pamela [Lee] felt last year, when we were unable to enter, due to the pressure of everything.

However, our heathers, we thought, looked extremely good after such wonderful rain over the last few months and, indeed, we had many favourable comments from known and unknown people. Happily, the judge did not feel obliged to place everything we entered"

I think that Mary deserves a vote of thanks for keeping the Heather competition going. Aren't there any members living in the Wisley area who could have a go next year? Ed.

## Changes to Award of Garden Merit for heathers

David Small

One of the highest accolades a garden plant can receive is the The Royal Horticultural Society's AGM. Every AGM plant:-

- must be of outstanding excellence for ordinary garden decoration or use
- must be available from nurseries, seed suppliers or specialist growers
- must be of good constitution
- must not require highly specialist growing conditions or care
- must not be particularly susceptible to any pest or disease
- must not be subject to an unreasonable degree of reversion in its vegetative or floral characteristics

When the Royal Horticultural Society re-introduced the AGM in 1992, it was decided that all such awards would be reviewed by its Standing and Joint Committees after ten years.

AGM Plants 2002 presents the results of this review. Some 1200 plants that no longer meet the AGM criteria have lost the Award, whilst nearly 900 have been added to the list.

In the case of heathers, 16 have lost their Award, whilst 13 have been added.

Those with AGMs are:-

2002 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Alexandra'	1993 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Robert Chapman'
2002 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Alicia'	1993 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Roland Haagen'
1993 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Allegro'	1993 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Serlei Aurea'
2002 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Anette'	1993 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Silver Queen'
1993 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Annemarie'	1993 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Silver Rose'
1993 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Anthony Davis'	1993 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Sir John Charrington'
1993 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Beoley Gold'	1993 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Sister Anne'
1993 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'County Wicklow'	1993 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Spring Cream'
2002 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Dark Beauty'	1993 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Sunset'
1993 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Dark Star'	1993 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Tib'
1993 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Darkness'	2002 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Velvet Fascination'
1993 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Elsie Purnell'	1993 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'White Lawn'
1993 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Firefly'	1993 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Wickwar Flame'
1993 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Gold Haze'	1993 <i>Daboecia cantabrica</i> 'Bicolor'
1993 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'J.H. Hamilton'	1993 <i>Daboecia cantabrica</i> 'David Moss'
1993 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Joy Vanstone'	1993 <i>Daboecia cantabrica</i> subsp. <i>scotica</i>
2002 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Kerstin'	'Jack Drake'
1993 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Kinlochruel'	1993 <i>Daboecia cantabrica</i> subsp. <i>scotica</i>
1993 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Mair's Variety'	'Silverwells'
1993 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Mullion'	1993 <i>Daboecia cantabrica</i> subsp. <i>scotica</i>
2002 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'My Dream'	'William Buchanan'
2002 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Peter Sparkes'	1993 <i>Daboecia cantabrica</i> 'Waley's Red'
1993 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> 'Radnor'	1993 <i>Erica arborea</i> 'Albert's Gold'

1993 <i>Erica arborea</i> var. <i>alpina</i>	<i>Erica cinerea</i> 'Hookstone White'
1993 <i>Erica arborea</i> 'Estrella Gold'	1993 <i>Erica cinerea</i> 'Knap Hill Pink'
1993 <i>Erica australis</i>	2002 <i>Erica cinerea</i> 'Lime Soda'
1993 <i>Erica australis</i> 'Mr Robert'	1993 <i>Erica cinerea</i> 'P.S. Patrick'
1993 <i>Erica australis</i> 'Riverslea'	1993 <i>Erica cinerea</i> 'Pentreath'
1994 <i>Erica canaliculata</i>	1993 <i>Erica cinerea</i> 'Pink Ice'
1993 <i>Erica carnea</i> 'Adrienne Duncan'	1993 <i>Erica cinerea</i> 'Stephen Davis'
1993 <i>Erica carnea</i> 'Ann Sparkes'	1993 <i>Erica cinerea</i> 'Velvet Night'
1993 <i>Erica carnea</i> 'Challenger'	1993 <i>Erica cinerea</i> 'Windlebrooke'
1993 <i>Erica carnea</i> 'Foxhollow'	1993 <i>Erica x darleyensis</i> 'Arthur Johnson'
1993 <i>Erica carnea</i> 'Golden Starlet'	1993 <i>Erica x darleyensis</i> 'Furzey'
2002 <i>Erica carnea</i> 'Ice Princess'	1993 <i>Erica x darleyensis</i> 'Ghost Hills'
2002 <i>Erica carnea</i> 'Isabell'	1993 <i>Erica x darleyensis</i> 'J.W. Porter'
1993 <i>Erica carnea</i> 'Loughrigg'	1993 <i>Erica x darleyensis</i> 'Jenny Porter'
1993 <i>Erica carnea</i> 'Myretoun Ruby'	1993 <i>Erica x darleyensis</i> 'Kramer's Rote'
2002 <i>Erica carnea</i> 'Nathalie'	1993 <i>Erica x darleyensis</i> 'White Perfection'
1993 <i>Erica carnea</i> 'Pink Spangles'	1993 <i>Erica erigena</i> 'Golden Lady'
1993 <i>Erica carnea</i> 'Praecox Rubra'	1993 <i>Erica erigena</i> 'Irish Dusk'
1993 <i>Erica carnea</i> 'R.B. Cooke'	1993 <i>Erica erigena</i> 'W.T. Rackliff'
2002 <i>Erica carnea</i> 'Rosalie'	1993 <i>Erica lusitanica</i>
1993 <i>Erica carnea</i> 'Springwood White'	1993 <i>Erica x stuartii</i> 'Irish Lemon'
1993 <i>Erica carnea</i> 'Sunshine Rambler'	1993 <i>Erica terminalis</i>
1993 <i>Erica carnea</i> 'Vivellii'	1993 <i>Erica tetralix</i> 'Con Underwood' 1993
1993 <i>Erica carnea</i> 'Westwood Yellow'	1993 <i>Erica tetralix</i> 'Pink Star'
1993 <i>Erica ciliaris</i> 'Mrs C.H. Gill'	1993 <i>Erica vagans</i> 'Birch Glow'
1993 <i>Erica ciliaris</i> 'Stoborough'	1993 <i>Erica vagans</i> 'Cornish Cream'
1993 <i>Erica cinerea</i> 'Alba Minor'	1993 <i>Erica vagans</i> 'Kevernensis Alba'
1993 <i>Erica cinerea</i> 'C.G. Best'	1993 <i>Erica vagans</i> 'Lyonesse'
1993 <i>Erica cinerea</i> 'Cindy'	1993 <i>Erica vagans</i> 'Mrs D.F. Maxwell'
1993 <i>Erica cinerea</i> 'Eden Valley'	1993 <i>Erica vagans</i> 'Valerie Proudley'
1993 <i>Erica cinerea</i> 'C.D. Eason'	1995 <i>Erica x veitchii</i> 'Exeter'
1993 <i>Erica cinerea</i> 'Fiddler's Gold'	1993 <i>Erica x veitchii</i> 'Gold Tips'
1993 <i>Erica cinerea</i> 'Golden Hue'	1993 <i>Erica x watsonii</i> 'Dawn'
1993 <i>Erica tetralix</i> 'Alba Mollis'	1993 <i>Erica x williamsii</i> 'P.D. Williams'

Those that have lost their Award are (as *The Heather Society* is not privy to information of the RHS Standing and Joint Committees, we believe the reasons are those given in brackets).

*Calluna vulgaris* 'Battle of Arnhem' (superseded by modern bud-bloomers)

*Calluna vulgaris* 'Finale' (superseded by modern bud-bloomers)

*Calluna vulgaris* 'Jimmy Dyce' (lack of availability within the UK)

*Calluna vulgaris* 'Orange Queen' (susceptible to disease)

*Calluna vulgaris* 'Red Star' (susceptible to disease)

*Calluna vulgaris* 'Underwoodii' (superseded by modern bud-bloomers)

*Erica ciliaris* 'Corfe Castle' (lack of availability within the UK)

*Erica ciliaris* 'David McClintock' (lack of availability within the UK)



- Erica cinerea* 'Cevennes' (replaced by 'Lime Soda')  
*Erica erigena* 'Brian Proudley' (lack of availability within the UK)  
*Erica erigena* 'Irish Salmon' (too similar to 'Irish Dusk')  
*Erica xgriffithsii* 'Heaven Scent' (lack of availability within the UK)  
*Erica mackaiana* 'Maura' (lack of availability within the UK)  
*Erica mackaiana* 'Shining Light' (lack of availability within the UK)  
*Erica spiculifolia* (lack of availability within the UK)  
*Erica vagans* 'Fiddlestone' (too similar to 'Mrs D.F. Maxwell')

## Names of Hybrid Heathers (and all other Flowering Plants)

**E. C. Nelson, Registrar.**

As I am sure all members already know, a hybrid plant (or to use the technical term, a nothotaxon), resulting from the cross-pollination of two distinct species, may have a separate Latin name composed of the generic name and a "specific" name with the hybrid sign between. *Erica x darleyensis* is a very familiar example.

Under the latest edition of the *International code for botanical nomenclature* (St Louis 2001), which governs the scientific names of plants, the following recommendation is published:-

Recommendation H.3A1. The multiplication sign in the name of a nothotaxon should be placed against the initial letter of the name or epithet. However, if the mathematical symbol is not available and the letter "x" is used instead, a single letter space may be left between it and the epithet if this helps to avoid ambiguity. The letter "x" should be in lower case.

In the first paragraph above, because I used the letter "x" as the hybrid sign, I left a space either side of it – *Erica x darleyensis*.

However had I used a multiplication sign "x", the name would be printed like this – *Erica xdarleyensis*, without a space between the sign and the second word.

All very confusing, I know, and inevitably because this is a recommendation and not an article (which must be followed) it is likely to be ignored more often than followed.

Be that as it may, in publications issued by *The Heather Society* we will attempt to follow the recommendation, and the names of heather hybrids under these two schemes will look like this –

*Daboecia x scotica*  
*Erica x afroeuropaea*  
*Erica x darleyensis*  
*Erica x garforthensis*  
*Erica x griffithsii*

*Daboecia xscotica*  
*Erica xafroeuropaea*  
*Erica xdarleyensis*  
*Erica xgarforthensis*  
*Erica xgriffithsii*

*Erica* x *krameri*  
*Erica* x *oldenburgensis*  
*Erica* x *stuartii*  
*Erica* x *veitchii*  
*Erica* x *watsonii*  
*Erica* x *williamsii*

*Erica* x *krameri*  
*Erica* x *oldenburgensis*  
*Erica* x *stuartii*  
*Erica* x *veitchii*  
*Erica* x *watsonii*  
*Erica* x *williamsii*

## Williams' Heath

### David Wilson - British Columbia

*With acknowledgements to the Northeast Heather Society of America from whose January 1999 Newsletter, 'Heather Notes', the item below has been adapted and updated by David Small.*

*Erica* x *williamsii* is a rare hybrid between *Erica vagans* and *Erica tetralix* that has been found only 12 times in 140 years, all on the Lizard Peninsula of Cornwall, England. The name commemorates Mr P D Williams, the first to collect the plant and to record its parentage. This plant was given the cultivar name 'P D Williams'.

The second *E* x *williamsii* was found before 1920 by Miss Gertrude Waterer, a gardener with a keen eye and interest in her native heaths. She lived surrounded by her wild garden in Cornwall. Here her favorite heathers became overshadowed by tree heaths, rhododendrons and other shrubs. The cottage where she lived was off the main road and not easy to find; even from the gate it was hidden by trees and shrubs. Here she stayed until 1974 without electricity or running water. It is said "she conceded nothing to fashion and was usually dressed in heavy brown material of a very pleasant shade, heavy tweed in winter, heavy cotton in summer, with a brown wool cap or straw hat. Her face was brown too, so she was 'of a piece' with her garden." It is fitting that this collector of unusual forms of heather found this *Erica*, which was given the name 'Gwavas', after a farm she visited near Goonhilly Downs.

Both cultivars have similar lilac-pink flower color, with 'P D Williams' being slightly darker and having a tighter, more upright growth habit. The flower arrangement is reminiscent of *E. vagans*. Being sterile (as most hybrids are) they offer the advantage of a long flowering season - from July to November. Colorful yellow-gold new growth in spring is also a benefit of this match.

Like most heathers they enjoy a well drained sandy loam, with the addition of organic matter like peatmoss or leafmould when planting and a mulch of bark chips or similar material. To enjoy the colorful new growth of spring and early summer, trim the plants lightly when growth begins in early spring. Removing more than an inch or so may reduce flowering. The plants are said to perform better in the garden than in the wild and have done well in trials during the severe winters at Harlow Carr Gardens in Northern England.

Heather history has been enriched by the use of wonderful place-names from the Lizard area: Kynance, Mullion, Mousehole and now *E* x *williamsii*

'Cow-y-Jack', found in 1983 and named after a village on the Lizard. This plant has the most brilliant yellow tips in spring of any *E x williamsii*.

I have not explored the Goonhilly Downs, looked near Gew Graze, or strolled down the lane to Bochym in search of *E x williamsii*, but I do feel a connection with the heather plant hunters of the early part of this century. They were able to combine recreation and a need to find and introduce new and distinct forms of heather to the trade. The parents of this hybrid, *Erica vagans* and *Erica tetralix*, flower in the wild mostly in tones of pale pink or mauve-lavender. I believed that crossing cultivars of superior flower color might result in hybrids of improved color.

In 1984 I began pollinating *E. tetralix* cultivars with two of the best *E. vagans* cultivars, 'Mrs D. F. Maxwell' and 'Lyonesse'. From the seed produced, I was able to germinate about 700 seedlings, and two years later these began flowering. Most produced flowers of poor color and were discarded immediately. Some with a more magenta-pink color and what I believed to be the first white form were grown on in pots but did not always get the best of care. The poor things were constantly shuffled around the nursery.

Eventually a corner of a stock bed was planted with a few promising seedlings. In true *E. x williamsii* fashion they grew well with little attention and would peek out from their hidden corner as if they were trying to be rediscovered. Cuttings were sent to David Small of *Denbeigh Heathers* in England with the request that the best one be named Ken Wilson to commemorate my father's efforts to bring together heather enthusiasts in 1977. The resulting cultivar 'Ken Wilson' was introduced in 1992.

Similar attempts at hybridizing were made by Dr. John Griffiths of Leeds University in England. He very cleverly used the golden form of *Erica vagans* 'Valerie Proudley' resulting in a neat, compact gold *E. x williamsii* with pink flowers, named 'Gold Button'.

When we started collecting heathers for the nursery in the early 1970s 'P D Williams' and 'Gwavas' were among the first to arrive and be propagated. They are utilized for their spring foliage effect. The young plants in 4" pots are trimmed and the resulting flush of colorful new growth makes them attractive for spring sales.

Over the years at our nursery a number of cultivars of other species have been lost to production for one reason or another, but *Erica x williamsii* varieties are trusted survivors that have always been with us. I feel this may be the true nature of the plant: even if it faces difficult odds, it will make a solid effort to succeed.

The 1999 Conference of *The Heather Society* was held in Cornwall, with the theme being 'The Heathers of the Lizard'. A field trip was organised, to follow in the steps of early plant hunters and, perhaps, even find a new clone of this most rare of heaths. To ensure maximum success, Jean Julian, with David and Anne Small searched an area where a plant was known to exist but after several hours they failed to find it. To be fair, Jean Julian was new to heathers and confessed that she was not sure what to look for. David Small explained that the hybrid will, most likely, be near *Erica tetralix* which is much less common than *Erica vagans*. Within minutes, Jean Julian had found a new

clone previously undiscovered (and still is the last clone to be found) and now bears her name. *E. x williamsii* 'Jean Julian' is perhaps the most dwarf plant found in the wild and to date is barely 15cm high. The Conference was not told of the find but on the planned field trip, Barry Sellers re-discovered the plant!

There are people in *The Heather Society* that have a wealth of direct knowledge of the *E. x williamsii* of the Lizard Peninsula, as well as other heathers, related plants and wildlife to be found there. It had been hoped that Dr. David Coombe who has the distinction of finding this hybrid twice would be well enough to attend the Conference but alas, he died weeks before the Conference. One of his finds bears his name. The cultivar 'David Coombe' is an excellent plant with flowers that open shell pink and fade to more lavender tones. The foliage is rich green but shows a creamy gold variegation to the tips throughout the year. New growth is yellow and the plant has a bushy, upright habit. The original plant, found in 1977 between Bochym and Goonhilly was destroyed by fire but cuttings had been taken and three years later it was replanted on site. Now that is survival!

*E. x williamsii* 'Jean Julian' was also destroyed by fire in 2000, but survives, as cuttings were taken. It too, might be returned to the wild. Yes, *E. x williamsii* is a survivor.

## The Azores 7 June to 14 June 2003

Dr Charles Nelson will be leading a "botanical" holiday to the mid-Atlantic islands for The Heather Society next June. We will see the endemic species of St Dabeoc's heath,

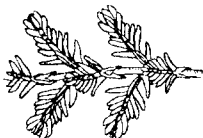
*Daboecia azorica* and the Azorean subspecies of *Erica scoparia* and other plants that do not occur anywhere else - *Euphorbia stygiana*, *Vaccinium cylindraceum*, for example. Accommodation will be in comfortable hotels, and all evening meals and inter-island travel is "included". It will be at a gentle pace, starting on the island of Sao Miguel before transferring to Pico with its spectacular volcano. We visit Faial and conclude the holiday on Terceira. It won't be all heathers... there will be time for relaxing and sightseeing! A colour brochure with full details and prices and a book form is now available; members are invited to contact David Sayers (Azores Heathers), Andrew Brock Travel Ltd, 29a Main Street, Lyddington, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 9LR.

Dr E. Charles Nelson

Tippitiwitchet Cottage, Hall Road, OUTWELL, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, PE14 8PE, UK

tel: [int + 44] (0) 1945 773057. fax: [int + 44] (0) 1945 774077

email: [tippitiwitchet@zetnet.co.uk](mailto:tippitiwitchet@zetnet.co.uk). website: [www.tippitiwitchet.co.uk](http://www.tippitiwitchet.co.uk)



## Are you sitting comfortably?

### The Name of the Heather: A Fairy Story for Gardeners

by Lewis Carroll (with the assistance of Charles Nelson)

It was a peaceful day in Looking-glass Land. The Aged, Aged Man was enjoying the sunshine as he looked for haddock's eyes in the Heather Garden – *why* he was engaged in this particular pursuit only he knows! Greenfingers the Nurseryman was carefully taking cuttings of St Ceobad's heath and putting them in upside-down so they would produce nice new roots. And Alice, who had recently arrived, was having a deep and meaningful conversation with The Gnat.

"I don't *rejoice* in insects at all," Alice explained, "because I'm rather afraid of them... But I can tell you the names of some of them."

"Of course they answer to their names?" The Gnat remarked carelessly.

"I never knew them do it."

"What's the use of their having names," The Gnat said, "if they won't answer to them?"

"No use to *them*," said Alice; "but it's useful to the people that name them, I suppose. If not, why do things have names at all?"

The Gnat was silent for a while, then sighed deeply, letting two large tears roll down his cheeks – he was thinking of all the poor garden flowers he had seen which had no names at all because their gardeners had forgotten to label them.

Cheering up, The Gnat took Alice under his wing and they set off for afternoon tea with Rocking-horse-fly, Bread-and-butterfly, and Snap-dragon-fly.

"What's the point of this nonsense?" asked The Bewildered Gardener, who was happily reading *Detartsulli snedrag*, the gardening magazine published in Looking-glass Land, and otherwise minding his own business in The Red Queen's garden.

"Names – names of garden plants!" exclaimed Alice; "we need names for all the lovely garden plants so we can order them from Greenfingers the Nurseryman down in Tiger-lily Cottage. And, if we don't have the right name, we won't get the right plants for our white border, or our purple border, or our... our... what're they called... I remember – island beds with dwarf conifers as focal points! That'll make the old queen very angry."

And, like every good fairy tale, when Alice and The Bewildered Gardener discovered how easy it was to learn names, even Latin ones, and how to make up nice new names, they were happy ever after!... But we've jumped ahead...

In The Bewildered Gardener's garden, there was a little seedling heather which had sprung up from Nowhere – not an unusual happening. Instead of having green leaves and pink flowers, like many lovely heathers in Alice's Land – otherwise known as The Real World – it had green flowers and pink leaves – how that came about is quite another story. Alice spotted the little seedling and with the help of The Bewildered Gardener took some cuttings.

Soon there were lots of nice baby heathers, all with pink leaves and green flowers. Everyone was envious and some kept saying "That's a new heather, and it needs a new name." But Alice, being a wise little girl, wanted to make sure that they had spotted a new plant and that it did not have a name already.

So she trudged off to find the kind-faced, bespectacled Taxonomist, who grew mousetraps and lived in Tippetitwitchet Cottage, and asked if he would help her to find out if the heather was *new* and if it needed a special name, all of its own. The nice Taxonomist who doubled as Registrar for *The Heather Society*, was *very* helpful. He looked in countless dusty books, spoke to his friends in faraway lands, and scratched his head. Eventually he pronounced his verdict – The Bewildered Gardener's heather really was new and it did not have a name.

"Let's name it", said Alice excitedly, "after The Jabberwocky because it loves strange things like Tumtum trees." (For a while Alice thought she would have to name her lovely new heather after some famous but crusty old botanist, or, even worse, give it a Latin name – she shivered at the thought that Snap-dragon-fly was known, in italics, to scientists as *Calidopteryx*, and Rocking-horse-fly was *Asinasilus vacillantus*).

"That's alright", said The Taxonomist helpfully, "as long as The Jabberwocky's name has not been used for a heather before. Now, before we do anything, let's make sure we follow the rules about giving new names to new garden plants. We can't just plump for any old name and use it willy-nilly. We'll have to ensure that the heather's new name is properly published so that no-one, not even that crafty old Greenfingers the Nurseryman can change it."

"How do we do that", asked Alice, a little impatiently.

So the very wise, kind Taxonomist (this is a fairy story) carefully wrote down all the steps Alice had to follow to name her heather. Here are the most important ones.

- ☛ *Make sure that the new plant is new, and that it does not resemble closely any other plant, especially one of its close relatives.*

Alice had already done this, of course, but it is often very difficult and sometimes can only be done by sending the new plant to special trial grounds for testing. It needs a lot of knowledge about garden plants to be absolutely certain. There is no point in naming a plant that is not new, nor one that cannot easily be distinguished from its relatives.

- ☛ *Write a detailed description of the new plant.*

Alice said that all she needed to do was print, say, 'Heather with pink leaves and green flowers', but The Taxonomist knew this would not do, and so he showed Alice how, by using colour charts, measurements and a few, quite easy technical terms, to make sure her description was precise. He didn't want any chance for ambiguity.

- ☛ *Contact the international cultivar registration authority and register the new name.*

Some plants like heathers, daffodils and rhododendrons (which Alice

liked to call rosydandries) have registration authorities (known as ICRA's) and registrars who make sure that every name is unique. The registrars will also make sure the name is correctly formed, that it is *not* Latin, and is composed of not more than three words. There are lots of other rules about names which registrars will advise about. Some registrars also provide, for a small fee, a gold embossed certificate! It just so happens that The Heather Society's one isn't embossed in gold, but it's free!

☛ *Make a permanent record of the new plant.*

Alice was proud of her new heather so Lewis Carroll photographed it in colour, and then she also carefully picked a specimen (some typical flowers with lots of leaves) and asked the kind Taxonomist to have this pressed, dried, labelled and then placed safely in the Looking-glass-Land Botanic Gardens, so that years from now others can look at the specimen and see exactly what Alice's heather looked like.

☛ *Publish the accurate description, and perhaps a photograph, in a dated journal or dated catalogue.*

Alice had written her description and checked that the name she wanted to use was okay, so she contacted The Editor of the *Bulletin of The Heather Society*, a cheery lady by the name of Daphne and asked if the name of her new plant could be published. The Editor was absolutely delighted because she was always short of interesting articles and so Alice's heather was named *Calluna* 'Jabberwocky Glory'.\* [Note from registrar. As no description of this heather has ever been traced in a publication printed in 'The Real World', the name is not established!]

Not long afterwards The Aged, Aged Man, having given up hunting for haddock's eyes in the Heather Garden, opened his copy of *Detartsulli snedrag* and read all about *Calluna* 'Jabberwocky Glory' \* – and that undoubtedly explains why he was sitting on the gate.

In Looking-glass Land everyone is proud of Alice's heather, which of course only looks as if it has pink leaves and green flowers – like a Looking-glass book, things are the wrong way round!

By the by, the rules about naming plants here are just the same as those Alice was shown, but as we all know leaves are usually green and many heathers have pink flowers, and as in all the best fairy stories every Taxonomist has a kindly face.

\* NB. Under the ICNCP 1995 "A new cultivar epithet is not established if the cultivar of which it purports to be the epithet does not exist at the time of publication." If anyone can verify the existence of this stupendous heather, please let us know.

## Queries Through our Website - ([www.heathersociety.org.uk](http://www.heathersociety.org.uk)) Answered by David Small

**Question:** I have a winter/spring *Erica x darleyensis* 'Silberschmelze' and 'Kramer's Rote' which I received from Ireland and planted a year ago in February. The plants are very healthy but have yet to bloom. I live in the State of Georgia, which is in Zone 7-8 and our soil is very acidic. Should they have bloomed in the Winter and early Spring of this year? I planted them on the West side of my home, but have since discovered that they do receive quite a bit of shade from our trees. Should they be transplanted to a more sunny location, and if so, when would be an appropriate time to do so?

**Answer:** Yes, I would have expected them to have flowered this spring. Did you trim them at all? *E. x darleyensis* sets bud almost immediately after flowering so if you trimmed off dead flowers that might have been on the plants when they came from Ireland, you may have trimmed off the buds and made the plants blind for a year. If that is not the cause then it is possible that heavy shade might make them blind. Another possibility might be that the plants were too dry when they were setting bud. Whatever the reason, you should see buds appearing by July. These will appear yellowish-green. If there is no sign by the end of August, then I suggest you shift them to a sunnier site in September/October.

**Question:** I am interested in growing heathers as garden plants. Which species do you recommend? My zone is 5 in Illinois and low acid type soil. I would like to have one that is low maintenance and does not need a lot of care. Growing tomatoes, beans and flowers of all sorts are easy for me to handle so I hope heather can be given the same care likewise.

**Answer:** Probably the best species to grow outside which needs minimal maintenance is *Erica carnea*. There is a range of cultivars from white, pinks and ruby reds. In addition there are varieties with yellow and gold foliage. All grow to about 6 inches high and will spread around 3 feet in time. You will find details of specific varieties and sources of them in the US by visiting our website at [www.heathersociety.org.uk/handy\\_guide.html](http://www.heathersociety.org.uk/handy_guide.html)

**Question:** Recently I bought a pair of heathers, *Erica quadrangularis*, native of South Africa as houseplants but they did not look too good. However I noticed the black specks in the flowers - are they seeds? They are very, very tiny, smaller than poppy seeds, almost like finely ground black peppers. They came from the nursery in Monterey Bay, CA. How would I know if they are alive - despite the efforts keeping the soil moist but they look rather dry.

**Answer:** Yes, it is possible that you have seed as the seed of *Erica quadrangularis* is very fine. For details on how to sow the seed go to our website at [www.heathersociety.org.uk/propagation.html](http://www.heathersociety.org.uk/propagation.html). It sounds as though you have lost your two plants if the foliage has become rather crispy. If you want to try again follow the tips given on our website at [www.heathersociety.org.uk/cape\\_heaths.html](http://www.heathersociety.org.uk/cape_heaths.html).

**Question:** Our local Home Depot is selling heather/heath - they do not provide the proper name, but, from exploring your web site, it looks



like it might be *Erica arborea*. They come with pink and white flowers - the tag says *Erica* 'Mediterranean Pinks' My question is: are the terms 'heather' and 'heath' interchangeable? The same plant seems to have both names on different packaging.

**A**nswer: The plants you have are *Erica x darleyensis*. These are commonly sold in the States at this time of year under a variety of names such as 'Med Pink' or 'Med White'. The correct names for these plants is *Erica x darleyensis* 'Darley Dale' (pink) and *Erica x darleyensis* 'Silberschmelze' (white). Other *Erica x darleyensis* cultivars are now readily available in North America, so it is quite probable that some of these are now being sold as 'Med Pink' or 'Med White' or variants thereof. These are lime tolerant and should be hardy in your area. 'Heather' is a term which strictly applies to the genus *Calluna* and 'Heath' applies to the genera *Erica* and *Daboecia*. In North America it is common for these two terms to remain separate but in Europe 'Heather' is used as a composite term for heaths and heathers. So, it is not surprising to find both names on labels, particularly where they are not using the correct names to start with.

## Group News

### North East

On a lovely warm, sunny day in July, ten of us met for lunch in Bellingham, before visiting the gardens at nearby Chipchase Castle. The garden was very colourful, with many unusual plants, and most of us spent some time in the Nursery making our purchases.

The Annual Show, which we have just had on September 14th, was much more successful than last year. Changes had to be made now that we have fewer competitors, and the Committee decided, for this year at least, to have fewer classes and also to have one half of the show bench for competition and the other half to have different heathers grown in bowls for display purposes only. Several members took bowls and grew the heathers on and when they were all massed, together on the bench they looked most attractive. Next year they will be even better!

On the competitive side there were some really good specimens and the Judge complimented us on this. Although there were only 5 competitors there were 54 exhibits and all competitors won a prize! Trophies went to the following people:

Best Exhibit in Show	Rita Plumridge
Maximum Points in Show	Geoff & Dorothy Warner
Best in Classes 13, 14, 15 & 16	Dorothy Warner

The highlight of the year for the North East Group was, undoubtedly, *The Heather Society's* Conference held at the George Washington Hotel from August 30th - Sept. 2nd. We had really perfect weather for the whole weekend and many who had attended the last Conference held here in the North East in 1989, were here again, together with some newer members. It was a pleasure for us, as a Group, to welcome you all and to show you a tiny part of our wonderful county, Northumberland. I know there will be a fuller report elsewhere in the next *Yearbook*.

Our A.G.M. will be in St. Matthew's Church Hall, Ponteland, at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, November 1st, 2002. We will finish the business with our usual slide show and Faith Supper, for which contributions will be gratefully received on the night.

Dorothy M. Warner.

## Yorkshire

On Saturday, 8th June eighteen members enjoyed a most interesting talk by *The Heather Society* President, David Small. This was a trial run of his talk to the North American Heather Society Conference at Nainamo, Vancouver Island at the end of July. The topic was "Heathers and their Hybrids". He started with a description of heather, in particular lowland heath and the natural heather hybrids and the geographical location of these plants. He explained the botanical difference between the different heathers and how the hybrids had a mixture of the two before comparing the garden hybrids in a similar manner. He touched on the deliberate production of hybrids by Dr. John Griffiths and Kurt Kramer and then described the genetic polymer DNA and how it is possible to compare the DNA of each heather and the hybrids. This is relatively simple with European Heather species but becomes complex with the South African heaths now that it is realised that several of these hybrids are fertile. There are many years of work ahead before the genetic makeup of heathers is fully understood. The meeting was completed with the usual discussion, questions and tea and biscuits.

Then on a perfect Saturday in July twenty seven members drove to Helmsley to visit the Walled Garden. This garden was formerly the walled garden for Duncombe Park, the home of the Earl of Feversham until it was allowed to decay. Since 1992 it has been transformed by a trust set up by the late Alison Ticehurst and we were given a guided tour of the 5 acre garden, explaining its development so far and the future of the garden.

We are already at work on a programme for 2003 and this will be finalised at a meeting at the home of our chairman, Prof. Griffiths later this autumn.

Jean Julian

## East Midlands

A meeting of the East Midlands Group took place on Saturday July 27<sup>th</sup> 2002 when 12 members and friends took part. The venue at the Church of St Mary in Charnwood proved acceptable. It is situated about a mile west of the Town and only a mile from junction 23 of the M1 motorway. It is therefore very easy to get to and has ample provision for car parking.

The day was warm and sunny with a gentle breeze to take away the fiercest heat of the afternoon. The main activity of the day was a talk which I gave on close-up photography. I explained that when I first took an interest in heather I found some difficulty in telling the difference between the species. However, around that time I saw some micrographs by the late Mr. A W Jones in a *Heather Society Yearbook* and this gave me the idea that I could advance my knowledge by taking close-up photographs. Thus began an interest which has developed over the years into another fascinating hobby.

In my talk "Heathers in Focus" I described my personal trail of discovery when meeting and (usually) overcoming problems. I aim to take full frame pictures of heather flowers which on a single lens reflex (SLR) camera generally means achieving magnifications of 3 to 7 times or around 0.75 times for racemes. This for me involves using 28mm and 50mm lens the right way round or reversed, bellows and extension tubes. I mainly use flash photography.

Included in the talk was a description on how to set the flashguns, including ring flash, and how to calibrate and use a flash meter. The talk touched on reflective values of certain colours and difficulties associated in getting adequate backgrounds for slides at the magnifications required.

Naturally, the talk was illustrated with close up slides including one or two taken using a microscope.

After the talk we went down the road to our home where Joan had prepared tea. So the remainder of the event consisted of our favorite pastime – talking to like minded friends about heather. As mentioned above, the weather was kind and we were able to sit outside among the heathers.

Allen Hall

## Home Counties

The third and final meeting of the year for the Home Counties Group took place on Saturday 5th October with the customary end of season visit to the Heather Garden at the Royal Horticultural Gardens, Wisley. Twenty five members attended and we were privileged to have amongst us Eileen Petterssen of Norway, President David Small and Society Administrator Anne Small as well as Society Chairman, Arnold Stow and wife Josie, plus our good friends from the South West Group.

The weather was ideal for the tour of the Heather Garden in the morning, warm and sunny, with the heathers looking particularly colourful. It was good to see that the plantings made in the last few years in the new beds are now mature and in good condition.

After lunch we assembled at the Hillside Events Centre, a new venue with excellent facilities which is adjacent to the Wisley glass houses. Arnold Stow introduced his new *Erica carnea* database which he had compiled for easy recognition of varieties by flower and foliage colour as well as height and flowering period; this very useful aid was available on floppy disc to members at the meeting. Arnold then showed slides of the visits made by this year's Conference members to the new gardens at Alnwick Castle and the magnificent garden of David and Rita Plumridge. This was followed by the main talk of the afternoon given by Dr Charles Nelson entitled "Wild about European heathers" which was an extremely informative and colourful presentation on the wild European species and their habitats.

Following the tea break the winners of the table show were announced by the judges, Josie Stow and David Small. These were as follows:

Class 1 - Best flower arrangement in which heathers predominate. *The Turpin Trophy* for this class was won by John Tucker.

Class 2 - Best vase of hardy heather in flower, single variety - won by John Tucker.

Class 3 - Best vase of heather chosen for foliage - won by Derek Millis.

There was then a short question and answer session on heathers in general to finish the proceedings.

It had been a most pleasurable day. The three Home Counties Group meetings this year have been blessed with wonderful weather starting in March with the visit to Mary Bowerman's garden at Champs Hill followed by the May visit to the



*John Tucker receiving his trophy  
from Group Organiser, Derek Millis  
Photograph by John Plowman*

Savill and Valley Gardens, Windsor Great Park and ending with the Wisley meeting. I look forward to next year and to meeting old and new friends. My next newsletter will be issued to those who requested it in January 2003.

Here's wishing you good health and all the best for 2003.

*Derek Millis*

## South West

The SW group has enjoyed three meetings this year, two have already been reported on and the third is described below. On all three occasions we have been lucky with the weather and have had pleasant days although this isn't always essential for the March meeting at Lytchett Matravers, which is indoors.



*A Principal of Knoll Gardens, Neil Lucas, talking to members. Photograph by John Plowman*

So to the last meeting of this year. On Saturday, 21st September a party consisting of Heather Society members and friends visited Knoll Gardens at Hamborne near Wimborne in Dorset. Although this tranquil garden has few heathers, most of which are winter flowering, there was plenty to see and enjoy for those whose interest is plants in general. Neil Lucas, one of the

garden owners, very kindly gave up a couple of hours of his precious time to show us around and describe the items of interest at that particular time of year. The garden consists of 4 acres of grass walkways, trees, shrubs and borders and although not large by some garden's standards is packed "to the brim" with very little space to make further plantings. Neil realises that he has restricted space for new plants and is constantly re-planning areas of the garden mindful of the fact that trees, particularly some of the conifers, get overcrowded and have to be drastically pruned or even removed to let in light and air and make the space for the new plantings. One of the long shrub and herbaceous borders on the west side of the garden was a candidate for re-planning this coming winter. One of the features of the garden is the collection of ornamental grasses and although not my favourite plant it was obvious that here was one of the largest grass collections I had ever seen and this was reflected by the number of species and cultivars available in the adjacent nursery. Another feature of the garden is water and we came across several pools including two connected by a large waterfall which although built in relatively recent times blended in perfectly with its surroundings. The afternoon was closed with a visit to the small nursery sales area which had many examples of some of those plants we had seen during our walk around the garden and needless to say members took this opportunity to purchase souvenirs of our visit. Members

may be interested in knowing that Knoll Gardens exhibits at many of the major shows and with few staff Neil spends a lot of time planning and setting up the exhibits. With this thought in mind my thanks goes to Neil Lucas for finding the time to give us a friendly and informative tour. For the computer minded members, a description of Knoll Gardens can be found on the following website: [www.knollgardens.co.uk](http://www.knollgardens.co.uk)

### **Date for your Diary**

**Saturday 22nd March 2003** - 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 I will be giving an illustrated talk on a heather related topic. At the time of writing the title of the talk has not been decided upon but the intention is to announce the topic in the circular issued in February and also the Spring Bulletin. At this meeting there will be a 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 Jennifer Turrell) 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.

Further information on the meeting above and the rest of the meetings to be planned for 2003 can be obtained by sending me two SAEs by the end of January 2003. I finish this report by thanking you all for your support during this year and I hope for your continued support during 2003.

*Phil Joyner*

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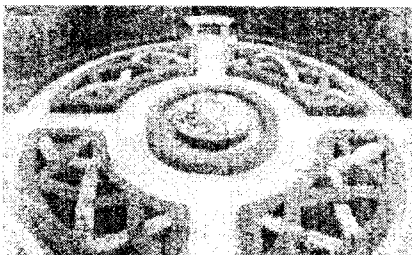
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Of special interest to Heather Society members are two colourful heather gardens, covering around half an acre in all, and a heather knot garden with water feature (pictured above).

Open (2002) Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays 2-5 pm, from 30 March to 29 September. Adult £2.50p, Child £1.00. Heather Society members also welcome at other times by appointment.

Home-made teas. Plants, including heathers, for sale. For further details and directions send SAE for leaflet, or visit our web-site - [www.bannut.co.uk](http://www.bannut.co.uk)



**Maurice & Daphne Everett**

**Tel & Fax 01885 482206**

**E-mail: [everettbannut@zetnet.co.uk](mailto:everettbannut@zetnet.co.uk)**

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## USEFUL ADDRESSES

**Society's Website:** [www.heathersociety.org.uk](http://www.heathersociety.org.uk)

- Chairman & Steering Committee** *Policy matters, major events etc.*  
Mr. A. J. Stow, Widmour, Limmer Lane, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP12 4QR.  
*e-mail:* [ajs@widmour.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:ajs@widmour.freeserve.co.uk) *Tel:* (01494) 449397
- Treasurer** Mr. A. Princep, 22, Hornby Drive, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6JP  
*e-mail:* [bprin@supanet.com](mailto:bprin@supanet.com) *Tel:* (01270) 629432
- Secretary & Slide Librarian** *Council Matters/Hire of slides*  
Mrs. J. Julian, "Matchams", Main Street, Askham Richard, York, YO23 3PT.  
*e-mail:* [jeanjulian@zetnet.co.uk](mailto:jeanjulian@zetnet.co.uk) *Tel:* (01904) 707316
- Yearbook Editor & Registrar** *Articles for the Yearbook / Naming of Heathers*  
Dr. E.C. Nelson, Tippitiwitchet Cottage, Hall Road, Outwell, Wisbech PE14 8PE.  
*e-mail:* [tippitiwitchet@zetnet.co.uk](mailto:tippitiwitchet@zetnet.co.uk)  
*Tel:* (01945) 773057 *FAX:* (01945) 774077
- Bulletin Editor & Technical Committee** *Notes, articles for the Bulletin and Technical Matters*  
Mrs. D. Everett, The Bannut, Bringsty, Herefordshire, WR6 5TA.  
*e-mail:* [everettbannut@zetnet.co.uk](mailto:everettbannut@zetnet.co.uk)  
*Tel:* (01885) 482206 *FAX:* (01885) 482206
- Advertising** *Adverts, advertising rates etc. for the Bulletin*  
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Mrs. A. Small, Denbeigh, All Saints Road, Creeting St. Mary, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP6 8PJ.  
*e-mail:* [heathers@zetnet.co.uk](mailto:heathers@zetnet.co.uk)  
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*e-mail:* [heathers@zetnet.co.uk](mailto:heathers@zetnet.co.uk)  
*Tel:* (01449) 711220 *FAX:* (01449) 711220
- Group Organisers** *(Remember, you will be very welcome at any local meeting or visit!)*
- East Midlands** Allen Hall, 10, Upper Green, Nanpantan, Loughborough, Leics. LE11 3SG.  
*e-mail:* [allen.hall@care4free.net](mailto:allen.hall@care4free.net) *Tel:* 01509 238923
- North East** Mrs. D. M. Warner, Littlecroft, Click-em-in, Ponteland, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE20 9BQ.  
*Tel:* (01661) 823299
- Home Counties** Mr. D. Millis, 18, The Horseshoe, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead, Herts HP3 8QW  
*e-mail:* [Derek.Millis@care4free.net](mailto:Derek.Millis@care4free.net) *Tel:* (01442) 254880
- South West** Mr. P.L. Joyner, 84 Kinross Road, Rushington, Totton, Southampton, Hampshire, SO4 4BN.  
*e-mail:* [pjoyner@supanet.com](mailto:pjoyner@supanet.com) *Tel:* (02380) 864336
- Yorkshire** Dr. J. Griffiths, 9, Ashlea Close, Leeds, West Yorkshire. LS25 1JX.  
*Tel:* (01132) 863349