

*Bulletin of The
Heather Society*



Vol. 6 No. 14

Spring 2005

DIARY OF EVENTS

2005

March 5 Yorkshire Talk in the Study Centre at Harlow Carr.

March 12 East Midlands Visit to Heather Nursery

March 12 Home Counties Visit to Heather Nursery

May 8 North East Annual Outing to Newby Hall.

May 15 **CLOSING DATE FOR SPRING BULLETIN**

June 4 Yorkshire Talk in the Study Centre at Harlow Carr.

July 6 North East Car Outing to Bide-a-wee garden

July ?? Yorkshire Visit to Scampston Hall

September 9 to 12

HEATHER SOCIETY GATHERING AND CONFERENCE,

September 10 North East Annual Show, Ponteland

September 17 Yorkshire Still to be arranged.

September 17 East Midlands Visit to Bob Rope's garden, Ravenshead

October 28 East Midlands A.G.M. 2.30 pm **Please note new time.**



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Cover illustration *Erica Carnea* by Brita Johansson

It was with great sadness that I learnt recently of the death of two of the Society's most colourful characters - Hugh Nicholson in October 2004 and Peter Vickers in January 2005. Appreciations of both are included in this Bulletin. Hugh's Profile can be read in Volume 4, No 15 of the Bulletin and Peter's in Volume 4, No. 13.

The 2005 Annual Gathering of The Heather Society 34th Annual Conference, September 9th - 12th 2005 Russell Court Hotel, Bournemouth

This year our Conference is being held in Bournemouth - a vibrant, bustling city as well as a traditional holiday resort. Good shopping is a short walk from the hotel and there are many other attractions within the city and its environs. Bournemouth has good rail links and an international airport, both with easy access to the hotel.

The Conference gives you the opportunity to see *Erica ciliaris* and *Erica x watsonii* in the wild. Also, very importantly, it gives members the chance to catch up with old friends and hopefully make new ones, discuss all aspects of our Erica world, and find the solution to that problem that has been niggling you for a long time.

If you have never been to the Conference before, why not join us, meet some of the names you see in the *Bulletin* and take a more active part in your Society. You will be very welcome.

Programme

Friday, 9th September

- 4.00 p.m. Registration & afternoon tea.
- 6.15 p.m. Bar open.
- 7.00 p.m. Dinner.
- 8.30 p.m. Conference opened by our Chairman, Arnold Stow, followed by a talk from Professor Nigel Webb on the "Ecology of Heathlands".
- 9.30 p.m. Bar open

Saturday 10th September

- 8.00 a.m. Breakfast.

- 9.15 a.m. Leave by coach for the Arne Peninsular. Professor Nigel Webb will lead us on a short ramble across the heath land in a search for *E. ciliaris*.
On arrival at Arne, coffee will be available from flasks.
- 12.30 p.m. Picnic Lunch and travel to Compton Acres via "The Sandbanks Ferry" across the entrance to Poole Harbour.
- 2.00 p.m. Arrive at 'Compton Acres' – a 10 acre garden, overlooking Poole Harbour. The garden is laid out in a series of "rooms", each presenting a different style and includes a Scottish Heather Dell. The visit will be led by the Curator, starting with an introductory talk. There are two motorised buggies available for hire.
- 4.00 p.m. A cream tea will be served in the café.
- 5.00 p.m. Coach returns to Russell Court Hotel.
- 6.15 p.m. Bar open.
- 7.00 p.m. Dinner.
- 8.30 p.m. David Edge, newly re-elected to Council and a heather nurseryman, will give a talk on his "Top Twenty Heathers for the Garden" David will also be available to answer questions.

Sunday 11th September

- 8.00 a.m. Breakfast.
- 9.00 a.m. The A.G.M.
- 10.00 a.m. Coffee.
- 10.30 a.m. Leave by coach for Forest Edge Nurseries. Situated near Ringwood, Hampshire, where David Edge will give all members the opportunity of propagating some of the cultivars available on his extensive list. You will be able to wander around David's tunnels and see his collection of Cape Heaths.
- 1.00 p.m. Picnic lunch.
- 2.00 p.m. Leave by coach for the world famous "Hillier's Gardens", at Romsey, Hampshire. These gardens hold the greatest collection of trees and shrubs in the world, more than 12,500 different types. We will be welcomed by a member of staff and after an introductory talk, we shall tour the gardens. Wheelchairs and buggies are available.
- 4.15 p.m. A cream tea will be served in the café.
- 5.00 p.m. Depart by coach for the Russell Court Hotel.
- 6.15 p.m. Bar open.
- 7.00 p.m. Dinner.
- 8.30 p.m. Open Forum and plant sale. Your chance to discuss any problems or queries you may have associated with heathers and *The Heather Society* and to perhaps get hold of plants not easily found in the garden centres.
- 9.30 p.m. Bar Open.

Monday 12th September

- 8.00 a.m. Breakfast.
- 9.30 a.m. Depart the Russell Court Hotel.

The times in the above programme may be subject to amendment and the

timing of the group photograph will be announced during the conference.

Cost of the Conference

Resident, for the whole weekend.	£230.00 (per person sharing)
Resident, leaving Sunday afternoon	£180.00 (per person sharing)
Resident, leaving after Sunday dinner	£195.00 (per person sharing)
There is a single person supplement of	£7.50 per night
Non-Resident, Friday evening	£20.00
Saturday: all day	£50.00
excluding dinner	£35.00
Sunday: all day	£45.00
excluding dinner	£30.00

For non-residents, Friday evening includes afternoon tea and dinner. The Saturday and Sunday rate includes the visits, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner.

Accommodation has been arranged at the Russell Court Hotel. The hotel is in the centre of Bournemouth. All the rooms have TV's, telephones, radio alarms and hospitality trays. A lift serves all floors and the hotel is patrolled by a night porter.

Bookings may be made by sending £2.00 (per mailing) to Mrs. Anne Small, at Denbeigh, All Saints Road, Creeping St. Mary, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP6 8PJ.

Cheques for the booking fee and the Conference 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. Please note that the latest date for full payment is 7th July 2005. Members are reminded that payment by VISA or MASTERCARD credit cards is acceptable.

Preliminary reservations have been made for, 8 double en-suite rooms, 8 twin en-suite rooms and 9 single en-suite rooms. If all these 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 make their own bed & breakfast accommodation arrangements. In this case the telephone number of the area's Tourist Information Office will be given to aid Bed & Breakfast enquiries. A cost per night for the use of the hotel around the conference week-end may be obtained from Susie Kay, who will be pleased to answer any queries relating to the 2005 Conference (Tel: 00353 95 43575, e-mail: susiek@gofree.indigo.ie)

This year we would like to run a mini plant sale. The theme being:

Something old: have you plants of an old cultivar, which is no longer available in garden centres?

Something new: have you a new cultivar which is not yet available in garden centres?

Something borrowed: did a friend pass you a cutting and have you rooted cuttings available to bring?

Never something blue: i.e. not painted heathers, but any rooted cuttings that are surplus to your requirements.

Please be nurturing one or two plants to bring with you (9cm pots preferred)

Proceeds to *The Heather Society Funds*.

The Enigma of the Alien Heathers of Britain, especially *Erica xdarleyensis* E. Charles Nelson

I took over last year as BSBI referee for *Calluna*, *Daboecia* and *Erica*, and mindful to follow in the footsteps of the previous referee, the late David McClintock, who did not take things for granted, I was somewhat taken aback by the *New atlas* CD-ROM on which there are four maps showing the distribution of several "rare alien" heaths (see the review published in *Heathers* 1 (2004): 60–61).

Three of the maps are not problematic.

1) *Erica arborea* (tree heather) has been recorded as self-sown in several places in southern England, on Jersey and on the Isle of Man, and given that it can seed freely in gardens in Britain and Ireland, its presence "beyond the garden wall" is not at all unexpected.

2) *Erica lusitanica* (Portuguese heath) has long inhabited a Cornish railway line (at Perrenwell Station) and is still there I understand. Portuguese heath was naturalized for more than a century on Lychett Heath in Dorset. In the 1964 *Yearbook of The Heather Society* David McClintock had reported that *E. lusitanica* "was all but eradicated by fire not long ago", while 30 years later (just over a decade ago) E. J. Clement and M. C. Foster (*Alien plants of the British Isles*, 1994) wrote that the population was "now much reduced or gone". I am a bit uncertain whether it is still found there, but in an e-mail last February (2004) Chris Pogson told me that on 29 January 1995 he saw "quite a few", perhaps 50 plants, in bloom on Lychett Heath, so it *was* there a decade ago.

3) *Erica terminalis* (Corsican heath) has been known from a site in Northern Ireland for at least a century (where I saw it in the mid-1970's), and is also recorded from three vice-counties in Britain: Berkshire, Dorset and Westernness (Scotland). I would welcome confirmation of those localities.

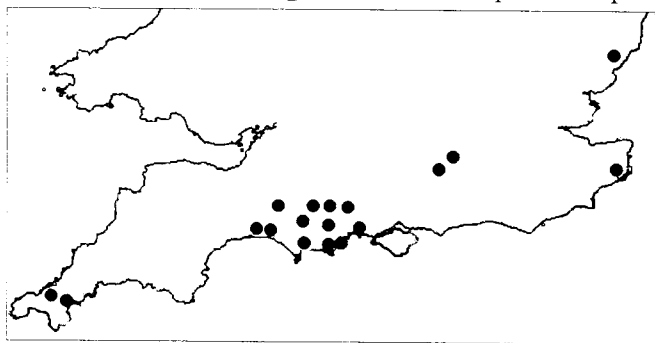
The fourth map on the CD-ROM is for *Erica xdarleyensis* (*E. carnea* x *erigena*) (Darley Dale heath), a horticultural hybrid unknown in the wild because the parent species have widely separated natural ranges. In British gardens *E. carnea* and *E. erigena* can cross spontaneously and that was the origin of *E. xdarleyensis* – a chance seedling in Smith's nursery at Darley Dale in Derbyshire. At least 36 distinct, named cultivars have existed – about 25 of these are commercially available today – according to *The Heather Society's* database for the *International register of heather names*. Recently, deliberate breeding programmes using carefully selected cultivars as pollen and seed-parents have produced a crop of new seedlings, so the number of named cultivars will undoubtedly increase.

As members know very well, *E. xdarleyensis* is a deservedly popular and widely cultivated plant, but it is sterile and none of the cultivars has produced viable seed as far as I can ascertain. Moreover, it does not spread in gardens by self-layering – although some of the cultivars do form mats, few, if any, of the stems will have adventitious roots. Given these characteristics, suggesting a plant incapable of "jumping the garden wall", how do we explain the swarm

of 18 records (each one represents the presence of the plant in a 10x10km grid square) across southern England? Are they all records of deliberately planted, but persistent plants? In one instance that is certainly the case. In the 1930's *E. xdarleyensis* was planted outside Notcutts' Nursery at Woodbridge in East Suffolk, but when the A12 was re-routed this heather 'plantation' was virtually destroyed, although an old plant did persist there for many years. David Small informs me that this plant has long since vanished and, contrary to what Clive Stace (*New flora of the British Isles*, 1991) stated, there is no *E. xdarleyensis* on the side of the A12 at Woodbridge today. That leaves 17 squares, one of which presumably is the record cited by Clement and Foster (1994) for Brookwood Cemetery, Surrey – not a record I would regard as admissible unless the heather has escaped beyond the cemetery's boundaries. Indeed, it is rather suspicious that *E. carnea* is also recorded by Clement and Foster (1994) from Brookwood Cemetery, making the place sound more like a well-planted heather garden than a veritable "wild" site. (If any *Heather Society* members live near this place, I would be delighted to hear more about the Brookwood heathers!)

The enigma of *E. xdarleyensis* is compounded by the fact that there is no map on the CD-ROM showing the distribution of naturalized populations of *Erica carnea* (winter heath) in Britain although this equally widely cultivated and popular heather is recorded by Clement and Foster (1994) as "persistent on Apple Tree Banks" on Tresco, on Dartford Heath, and at Churt and the aforementioned cemetery in Surrey – we might expect a map with 4 dots on it for these 4 widely separated sites. Neither the 1991 edition of Clive Stace's *New flora* nor his 1999 *Field flora of the British Isles* has an entry for *E. carnea*.

I suggest that the enigma of the 16 inexplicable squares (shown in the map



alongside as dots) for a hybrid heather incapable of producing seeds and rather less prone to vegetative spread than Stace suggests is a matter of identification. Few heather experts, whether nursery men,

gardeners or botanists, given pressed specimens of these plants, or even fresh specimens plucked from unseen plants, can distinguish between *E. carnea* and *E. xdarleyensis*, and even telling *E. carnea* apart from *E. erigena* takes a great deal of blind faith. In gardens at least, a good (but not utterly reliable) rule-of-thumb is that hybrids between *Erica* species usually have non-green (coloured) young growth during late Spring–early Summer. The following clones are just four examples of the so-called "Spring-tipped" hybrid heathers: *E. xdarleyensis* 'Furzey', pink tips; *E. xstuartii* 'Irish Orange', orange tips; *E. xwatsonii* 'Dawn', red tips; *E. xwilliamsii* 'Cow-y-jack', bright yellow tips. The

last three are wild-collected, native clones.

Thus a key to *E. carnea*, *E. xdarleyensis* and *E. erigena* could be as follows:

- 1a Plants with stiffly erect stems, forming bushy shrubs with several distinct main stems, to at least 0.75 - 3 m tall; foliage green all year round
.....= *erigena*
- 1b Plants with numerous decumbent or ascending shoots, without distinct main stems, rarely more than 0.6m tall (usually lower when growing in open ground)
..... (go to) 2
- 2a Foliage green all year round; shoots usually decumbent (pollen fertile)
.....= *carnea*
- 2b Young shoot-tips not green, often brightly tinged red, yellow or cream; shoots ascending or decumbent (pollen infertile)
.....= *xdarleyensis*

While it would be nice and convenient to have a few good morphological characters to denote the differences between *E. carnea* and *E. xdarleyensis*, it is apparent that the only reliable way of distinguishing them is to examine their pollen (see Bert Jones' discussion in the 1979 *Yearbook*). With one rather rare (if not extinct) exception ('Swiss Beauty'), the pollen grains of the cultivars of *E. xdarleyensis* are reported to be shrunken and infertile. Telling *E. carnea* and *E. erigena* apart, when these are presented as detached specimens, is if anything, even more difficult because both have fertile pollen.

(This is an updated version of an article first published in *BSBI news* no. 95 (January 2004): 12-14.)

***Erica carnea* seedlings - a Puzzle**

Brita Johansson

Some members have told us that they don't get seedlings of *Erica carnea* in their gardens. I wonder why?

In our garden [in Sweden] seedlings are not uncommon, though none has been of interest so far. A friend in Scotland gets lots of seedlings. Why do we get seedlings in our gardens? How do our conditions differ from gardens in England?

The most obvious difference is that we have a colder climate. Yet the Scottish climate is from my point of view fairly mild. *Erica carnea* flowers in spring here, not in winter. In our garden the earliest plant to flower is just a Scottish chance seedling from John Proudfoot. It is named after a Swedish heather lady, 'Margareta Dahlin'. In a normal winter we can enjoy the flowers in mid-March and the flowering period lasts for about two months. During that time our plants are often crowded with bees, which are probably very happy to find food in our garden as hardly any other plants are in flower that

early. In other words we can be sure that our plants get pollinated and set seed. This may not happen in England, as insect activity should be insignificant during late autumn and winter.

Do we know if *Erica carnea* sets seed in English gardens? But let's assume that it does. Why don't the seeds germinate? Daphne suggests that the reason that no seedlings come up in their garden is the heavy soil. It may be true but I guess that many English gardens have sandy soil and yet no seedlings appear.

My experience is that seedlings usually come up in peat blocks, between stones and in paving, thus in places which are more or less moist during all the year. A drought period kills the tiny seedlings. Yet there should be places meeting these demands even in southern England.

I have never seen *Erica carnea* in its native habitat but considering the deep snow cover in the Alps it should be in flower in late spring or early summer. Seeds should be ripe in late summer or early autumn. What happens if they germinate immediately? Of course they would succumb to winter cold. It is common that plants from cold areas have a mechanism that delays seed germination until spring the following year. They need a sufficient period of some cold to break the dormancy. I guess that this applies to *Erica carnea*. It may not get cold enough in English gardens, or the cold spell is too short. If plants set seeds it would be easy to investigate this by storing the seeds in a fridge for some months and then sow in the open and keep moist.

I don't pretend to have the solution of this problem. I just wonder. Anyone else?

Heather Compost offers Greener Future

(with acknowledgements to

The National Trust - West Midland News - Autumn 2004



The management of heather on the Long Mynd [Shropshire] has been given a more sustainable future thanks to the support of a local environmental contractor.

The National Trust is responsible for the management of approximately 1000 hectares of heather on the Long Mynd. Much of the heather is very old and 'woody', which means it is much less valuable for wildlife, such as grouse and sheep. "In previous years we have been burning heather or cutting it, but we are now looking at a more local and environmentally friendly solution" explains property manager, Peter Carty.

Environmental contractor, Rob

Littlehales from South Shropshire, is planning to set up a business partnership with a local farmer to turn the heather into compost and mulch for the garden.

"The proposal offers us a sustainable way forward for heather management. The advantage is that they will be able to increase the potential crop by using younger heather and heather mixed with bracken, with no damage to the sensitive heather vegetation".

"We hope that the business will be a great success and that the National Trust can help to generate income for a new business", continues Peter.

Thirty Years Ago

Article reproduced from the 1974 Yearbook

Yes, I know it is thirty one years now, but I ran out of room in the last Bulletin and 'Thirty one years' doesn't make a good heading. Ed.

St. Kilda Heathers - R. J. Brien, Perth

Many heather growers will by now have heard some reference to the 'St. Kilda' heathers. I wish therefore to put on record their story for the information of those heather growers who may be interested, not only in their potential as cultivars, but also for their botanical and biological difference: The dwarf and spreading habit of this strain can only have been built into them as a result of thousands of years of isolation and selective breeding in the very small group of islands known as the St. Kilda Group, lying far out in the Atlantic Ocean, west of the Scottish Hebrides, 50 miles from any other island and about 100 from the Scottish mainland.

My story began 15 years ago on a headland near Cape Wrath in north-west Scotland. On this cliff top, near Sandwood, I found a large number of small white heather plants, perhaps thirty in an area 30 yards square. All over this headland white callunas were common. I put one plant in my fishing basket and in due course planted it at my home in Pitcairngreen, Perthshire. My daughter was then building up a two-acre field of white heather for cut bloom, hence my greater interest in white heather.

This plant collected from near Sandwood, like many brought in from the wild, was not, however, suitable for cut bloom. It was dwarf and conical in growth with a slightly spreading characteristic. As a student of Darwin in my youth I felt that this plant typified what could happen to plants exposed for centuries to the Atlantic gales. Its growth would be quite different from those in the sheltered valleys of the mainland area.

Have our dwarf cultivars been obtained from such exposed situations? In such places cross-breeding with plants from more sheltered habitats was almost inevitable and would tend to obscure the picture in most areas. Work done by Gordon and Shepherd on heather types suggested that height of ground level encouraged dwarfing, but samples obtained by them from the Shetland Islands near sea level belied this. Was exposure not the proper criterion?

Some years later from the Slieve Donard nursery in Ireland, I got the

cultivar, 'Calf of Man'. It was very, very like the plant from Sandwood. Where could one find a remote island sufficiently exposed so that cross-fertilisation by wind or insects was virtually impossible? The remote St. Kilda group of islands appeared the ideal place to test out my theory.

The only way to get to St. Kilda, which is owned by the Scottish National Trust and leased to the Nature Conservancy, was to volunteer as a member of a Scottish National Trust 'Working Party'. Some three or four parties of Trust members annually spend a fortnight on Hirta, the main St. Kilda island, restoring the deserted houses, abandoned by their inhabitants in 1950 in a mass evacuation. I was lucky in 1966 to be selected as a Trust Group member and sailed from Mallaig in a rather old lobster fishing boat across the Minch, making the night-long dash to St. Kilda after waiting two days for calm seas at Lochmaddy. When we arrived at Hirta Bay the wind rose and after landing only half the party, our lobster boat had to run the 50 miles back to Harris before the gale. Eventually we were all landed on the islands. It was early June.

Bleak and windswept, the islands are relatively uninteresting botanically. Alpines could have survived on the 1,000 ft. high cliffs, but didn't. The heather, mainly *Calluna*, is old, very old, stunted to an extreme by violent gales and salt spray, and desperately cropped by the starving sheep in winter. With no burning to encourage regrowth, there is little regeneration. There was literally no young growth that I could select as material for propagation.

On my second to last day a special search over the Hill of Conachair, armed with a pocketful of small plastic bags, ended with specimens, wiry twigs off sixteen clones which I hoped might be white. Three days later the tips of the twigs were torn into 1 in. tufts, probably two or three-year old at their base and inserted into the cutting boxes. I was lucky despite the earliness of the season and the totally unsuitable material. Next spring I had 16 'varieties', off 16 individual plants, potted up, 12 white and four pink, rather than purple. They grew well and early demonstrated a spreading growth. They were, indeed, akin to my early 'Sandwood' specimen! To prove my point, however, I required more specimens. To my grateful surprise I was offered the leadership of the July National Trust Party and in due course I found myself on Hirta again. This time I scoured not Conachair but Aisoval, the smaller of its twin peaks. There I collected over 60 specimens, almost all white, and to my great regret now, I took only two coloured foliage clones, a wee brown specimen the colour of the St. Kilda sheep and a little golden dwarf which I would like to call 'Soay' and 'Hirta' respectively.

I have been able to root a few specimens of these wiry little characters which are difficult to propagate. None are so easy as mainland heathers to propagate, but I now had over 70 specimens guaranteed to have had no chance of cross-fertilisation with plants from the mainland, their characteristics genetically built in.

In due course two long beds were planted in the heather field, all carefully tallied and noted on a plan. They took to mainland field conditions perfectly and their dwarfing spreading habit was soon evident. All were dwarf but some were dwarfer than others! A surprise was the varying dates of flowering and particularly the earliness of some ones: two flowered a fortnight before the

earliest white cultivar on my heather farm. A characteristic of most of the 'St. Kilda' strain is their trailing habit. A leading shoot will run out over the ground quite flat, then branch fanwise or at right-angles like the cross-pieces on a schooner's mast to form most interesting 'trails' as these leading shoots in turn curve left or right to give a flat 'picture effect' on the ground surface.

But what was the next step? My efforts to enlist the help of a specialist botanist have so far been unsuccessful. Many botanists have seen them but none were so deeply interested as to take from me, a complete amateur, the responsibility of proving whether the St. Kilda heathers are as unique as the St. Kilda wren or the St. Kilda mouse, both of which are so distinct from the mainland specimens.

The plants belong to St. Kilda: did I not get these plants by courtesy of the National Trust for Scotland from their island? For this reason I decided to hand over their distribution to the Scottish National Trust, so that any profit from their unique characteristics would accrue to the St. Kilda Fund, administered by the members of the St. Kilda Club, dedicated to maintaining and restoring the island as a permanent memorial to a life that is past. The plants now on sale at certain National Trust Centres are cuttings off the original clones and are thus properly known as 'St. Kilda Heather'. To introduce the plants to the public, specimens were exhibited on the Heather Society stand at the Highland Agricultural Show at Edinburgh in 1971.

I have been fortunate in enlisting the interest and help of Mr. J K Hulme, Director of the Botanic Garden (Liverpool University) at Ness, Cheshire, where trials of genetic dwarfing plant material are being conducted. Other specimens were sent to Boskoop, Holland, for evaluation. May I add that anyone, botanist or gardener, will be most welcome to view or study these heathers at Pitcairngreen, and a particular welcome to those who are members of the Heather Society, the Scottish Rock Garden Club or the

National Trust for Scotland.

Sadly Mr Brien passed away some years ago, but his St. Kilda heathers are still with us.
Ed.

Cape Heath Hardiness Trials in Scotland

Having read Allen Hall's report on the N. American Heather Society Conference, the name Carson prompted my failing memory to half-recall the fact that about 30 years ago a Dr. or Mr. Carson (or a similar name) was sent a selection of Milton Hutchings' Cape Erica hybrids for a trial planting on the Isle of Coll. It was hoped that they might survive year-round in the relatively milder climate off the W. coast of Scotland. Do any members have any knowledge of these un-official trials?

John Aubrey

The request for information above was sent to the Yearbook editor, Dr. E Charles Nelson and was passed on to me for inclusion in the Bulletin. Charles was able to tell Mr Aubrey that the trials were conducted by Mr. Kenneth A. H. Cassels and that he wrote about them in the Yearbooks - 1973 pp 12-14 and 1977 pp 10-12. (Mr. Cassel's 1977 article is reprinted on the next page. Ed)

Cape Heaths in the Hebrides - KAH Cassels

In the 1973 edition of the Year Book I wrote the story of my heather garden on the Island of Coll and of how I became interested in Cape heaths. With Coll's mild climate to help me I wondered if some of these could be grown out of doors. One of the problems is that I can only visit Coll intermittently, so that the plants have to fend for themselves in the intervals.

Because I only see the Island in the summer I did not realise that the comparatively sheltered site I had selected for "Africa" became waterlogged in the winter. As a result I have had a number of losses which really have nothing to do with hardiness. However my experiments have been going long enough now for me to be able to make some comments. I grow a number of Milton Hutchings hybrids, 'White Spray', 'Limelight', 'Delight' and 'Majestic'. Of these the first is outstanding and seems to be absolutely hardy here, though I admit this statement is based on the evidence of a single plant. Mine is planted in a very exposed part of my garden between *Calluna vulgaris* 'Arran Gold' and 'White Gown', and it certainly over-winters better than the latter. The salt winds have not hurt it and it was covered in flower in the spring. Anyone who has this hybrid should propagate it. My 'Limelight' planting suffered badly from water-logging, but even so some survived and have been moved to a new site. 'Delight' is impressive. It is a *hyemalis* hybrid, but slightly more apricot in colour than usual. This year this planting has been covered with bloom for weeks, though the tender young growth is badly cut by the sea winds.

Of the species, I have had *E. discolor* out of doors through two winters. The extreme tips of the young growth are cut by the salt wind, but it grows vigorously and appears to have at least some flowers on it all through the year. *E. glauca* var *elegans* is planted next door to it and seems quite impervious to Hebridean weather. I suspect that this species is among the hardier Cape Heaths and well worth trying in other places. Even the newly germinated seedlings seem tougher than most. *E. caffra* has now been here for four years and seems quite happy. The young growth gets slightly nipped but the plants come away again.

With the help of Anne & David Small I was able to contact Mr Cassels for an update on his trials: the news however was not very encouraging.

Mr Cassels told me that the first Cape heath he tried was *Erica pageana*, which he had bought as a plant from Hilliers Nurseries. It was planted in a sheltered position out of the wind (which is a major feature of the Island), where it grew strongly and came through two winters well. Ironically it was then killed by a summer drought!

Thus encouraged - on a trip to South Africa, Mr Cassels bought seed of several different species to try out at home. He found germination to be very patchy, but by sharing the seeds among friends with better propagation facilities than his own, he eventually had a good collection of Cape heaths for his trial.

Most grew well in the garden during the summer months, but the winter success rate proved to be very variable (as can be deduced from the article above), some plants succumbed after one winter, while others survived several, but, unfortunately, none is alive today. Mr Cassels thought that he might well have had a greater success if he had been resident on the island during the winter and could have given them a little TLC. Ed.

OBITUARIES

Peter Vickers - 1925 - 2005

Peter and I first met at the first Conference held at Grantley Hall in 1971. He was one of three speakers on propagation that weekend and I was immediately struck by his knowledge of the subject delivered in his amusing and forthright Yorkshire manner.

He was elected to Council in 1972 and served the Society well during his 22 years until failing health forced him to not seek re-election in 1994.

He was a member of the team that carried out the Heather Trials at Harlow Car in the 1970's and was the editor of the report that followed. He was also heavily involved in the production of the original Colour Chart. In those early days of the fledgling Society, the cost of producing sixteen different colours by professional printing was beyond the financial resources of the Society so Peter devised a method of pasting the colours onto pre printed cards. With the help of his wife Sylvia they produced 1000 Colour Charts which meant that by the time they were completed 16000 individual pastings had been done! For the second 1000 he rightly thought that someone else should undertake the task, which fell to my wife and myself so I know only too well his contribution, as besides the pastings, he had experimented with various adhesives until he found the one most suitable.

During his time on Council there was, in the minds of some, a distinct North/South divide promoted by Vice President John Ardron from Sheffield.



Peter was primed before he set off to London for Council meetings to put over John Ardron's views which Peter always did, and quite forcibly at times even though he himself did not always agree with them. The reasons for this apparent divide have been clouded by the passage of time, but I believe that one of them was that the AGM should not always be held in London, which at that time was convenient, but of course is now held at the Annual Conference.

On one occasion he took me from his home in Sheffield to a coal mining village at Dinnington and showed me the bungalow he was preparing to purchase with a large area of land with the idea of setting up a nursery. As we approached Dinnington the smell of coal dust in the air was very apparent. Despite this somewhat less than ideal situation he said that once established he would have a successful business. This he eventually did and ran it for a number of years.

To acknowledge Peter's contribution to the Society I feel that John Ardron's comments in the Heather Trials report in 1976 sums this up perfectly. *"The one important detail not recorded is the debt of gratitude and thanks we owe to Peter Vickers for the task of editorship, so intricate and time consuming. With infinite patience and meticulous care he has brought into focus the findings of an investigation which we are told is unique in the annals of horticulture"*

Arnold Stow.

Hugh Nicholson MBE, FLS, FRICS, MRTPI

HUGH NICHOLSON was one of the earliest members of *The Heather Society*, serving on Council from 1964 to 1990. He was a colleague of David McClintock at the Coal Utilisation Council and previously worked at the Ministry of Town and Country Planning in Birmingham. Hugh was an authority on arboriculture and as such he would visit the Netherlands and Germany, where he made many friends.

He married twice, the second time in 1973 to Hedda, a German woman who remained in Germany for a while to care for her ailing parents. She eventually joined Hugh in England at his charming period house in Dorking in 1976. Here they both worked enthusiastically to create a garden full of heathers and specimen trees. A friend of his, the heather nurseryman, J W Sparkes, named a white *Calluna* after him



Hugh attended the inaugural meeting of the Southern Group at Hindhead in 1975 and thereafter he and Hedda gave it their full support. Members visited their garden twice in the early eighties, where a warm welcome and great hospitality awaited.

He did not attend a conference until 1983, when it was held at the Falmouth Hotel. Hugh resolutely refused to attend most of the others, saying that he wanted comfort rather than having to endure the rigours of educational establishments. (Much later we all thought the same).

In recent years the couple travelled widely round the world, finally settling in Germany, where Hugh died in October 2004.

Pamela Lee

*Photograph taken in 1984 by
Kurt Kramer*

Letters to the Editor

Comments on: What to Plant with heathers, Bulletins 12 & 13

I had decided to keep my mouth shut as to Lizzie Judson's question in Bulletin 12, but after the Autumn Bulletin [13] I feel forced to open it.

When searching for companions to a plant it is always advisable to look at what neighbours it has in the wild. This warrants that they can grow under the same conditions and that they don't clash as to style, which I think that some of the proposed plants do.

Is there any reason to take it seriously when some trendy besserwisser [know-all] states that heather and conifers shouldn't be grown together? Wouldn't it be better to investigate if this is a piece of good advice or not, rather than hasten to find companion plants which could bring about a blessing from that person.

Reading repeated spiteful and belittling (and silly) comments on conifers I have started to ponder upon what these writers know about conifers. Visiting a big, internationally known nursery in Scotland I was surprised to find the assortment of conifers utterly meagre. If this is what people on the British Isles are offered it may explain the conventional use of fast-growing cypresses in English gardens.

The number of conifer cultivars is huge. Of *Abies koreana* alone there are about 70 cultivars in commercial production, all but a few are dwarfs. The forms of *Picea abies* are practically boundless. The conifer assortment is expanding rapidly, including very interesting forms as to shape and colour.

We have been growing well over 600 cultivars of different conifer species. A friend of us has the biggest collection in our country comprising more than 900 cultivars. It may not be becoming to say it but we know what conifers are. To exclude them from a heather garden would be unwise. When Daphne Everett makes apologies for growing conifers I suppose she is joking. Otherwise I would regard it an insult to a group of plants which have an extreme economic, ecological and aesthetical importance -for people all over the world.

Brita Johansson

As you can see from her letter, the recent correspondence regarding alternatives to conifers with heathers has provoked an angry reaction from one of our most respected and knowledgeable members, Brita Johansson. In my answer to her below I have tried to explain my own personal view of the position of heathers in Britain at the moment and why I have tried to find other companions to heather. Others may disagree and might like to write with their own thoughts on the subject for the next Bulletin: Ed.

Dear Brita,

May I, through this open letter, try and explain some of the reasons for the recent correspondence regarding heathers and conifers.

During the 1960's and 1970's heathers were going through a period of great popularity in Britain.

In the early 1960's, John F Letts had planted his beautiful heather garden, *Foxhollow*, at Windlesham in Surrey and was selling heathers from his nursery. His Handbook, *Hardy Heaths and the Heather Garden* was the heather enthusiast's Bible of the time. Around the same time Terry Underhill planted a stunning two-acre bank of heathers at Ness Gardens in Cheshire, which started off my own interest in heathers; his book *Heaths & Heather* was certainly *my* Bible! Heathers were being written about and extolled by most of the well-known personalities of the time, for their range of colour and their labour-saving features.

In the 1970's the eminent writer and horticulturist, Adrian Bloom planted his own garden 'Foggy Bottom' in Norfolk with heathers and conifers. He also advertised in the local press for a front garden, which he could plant up as a heather & conifer demonstration garden. The couple chosen were a Mr & Mrs. Edens, so you can guess what the garden was called! Several books followed from this project, including *Making the Most of Heather and Conifers*, a most useful book, which contained a wealth of basic information on heather garden design and many good illustrations.

Heathers and conifers were the 'in thing' and the two words became almost inseparable (like bacon and eggs, or fish and chips). Eventually however, there came the inevitable back-lash: heather and conifer gardens were 'old hat', and garden writers began to look for something new and different to write about.

There is no doubt that, since those heady days, heathers have lost much of their popularity (in Britain that is, certainly not elsewhere in the world). The words 'heathers and conifers' still have a brain-numbing effect on both garden writers and many members of the general public. I think that, if we want to bring heathers to popularity once again, it is *imperative* that we move on and try and think of new concepts and different ways of presenting them. It is very obvious from the comments of many visitors to our garden, that they are surprised and delighted to find how much they enjoyed our heather garden - having been convinced before they came that they didn't like heathers.

Trying something new doesn't mean to say that we in Britain don't like or grow conifers. There is a wide range of conifers offered for sale in Britain Brita, though maybe not as many as you have in Sweden. In most areas of our own garden, (except the heather beds) we grow a good selection in all sizes, shapes and colours. They are beautiful plants in their own right and are invaluable for giving structure to the garden during the winter months.

So - Dear Brita - I do hope this letter goes a small way to explaining why the correspondence in the *Bulletin* came about and that I have been forgiven for my slightly 'tongue in cheek' comments.

Daphne

A recommendation from the USA

A good stop for heather enthusiasts is Bridgemere Nursery and Garden Centre on the A51 in Cheshire, signed from exits 15 & 16 on the M6. It calls itself "the largest nursery and garden centre in Britain" and may very well be so. Much of the stock is grown on the premises.

There is a large, very well kept, display garden to the rear, behind the statuary and pot section, which many miss. There is no entrance fee and it has a good heather garden and a separate heather and conifer garden, also several gardens that have won awards at the Chelsea Flower Show and have been transplanted there.

The Garden Centre also has an extensive area where heathers and dwarf conifers are sold at good prices. The only qualm I have about the place is that the buildings have recently been modernized so there are now more gifty items and fewer house and conservatory plants - and the Tea Room is more pricey!

Well worth a stop.

Walter Wornick

E-mails bouncing!

We are aware of difficulties with some of the e-mail addresses, especially registrar@zetnet.co.uk and my personal address tippitiwitchet@zetnet.co.uk.

E-mails have been bounced back to correspondents with error messages such as "Spam [Korean charset meta] detected in message" because Zetnet was testing a filter that "proved a little over zealous, picking up on the denoted character set within the html of the message". Other problems occurred around 21 December when messages were returned with a "too many hops" error message!

I apologize to members who experienced problems with e-mails addressed to...@zetnet.co.uk during December and early January. I have been assured by Zetnet that the over-zealous filter has been tamed and that e-mails are "flowing freely" again.

Charles Nelson

Heathers in Disneyland

I've just got back from Disneyland in Paris. I was on one of the rides and rather than looking at the Disney characters in the landscape I got most excited about spotting some heathers they'd planted - some sort of *Erica carnea* - or possibly *Erica x darleyensis* I think.

How do you tell the difference?

Lizzie Judson

Charles Nelson's article on alien heathers elsewhere in the Bulletin might be of some help here. Ed.

**Queries through our website –
www.heathersociety.org
Answered by David Small**

Q I am trying to find historical information on the heather plant. What were some of the things it was used for in the past?

A Heather has been used medicinally particularly for the treatment of stones in the bladder and kidneys. Since 1930, heather, referred to by the medical profession as *Herba Callunae* has been acknowledged by many doctors and chemists as effective against arthritis, spleen complaints, sore throats, gout, catarrh and some coughs.

As regards uses, it has been used over the centuries as bedding for animals, thatching, ropes, baskets, brooms, even pot scrubbers. In recent years it has been used to produce a durable fencing, which is now commonly used in Mediterranean countries.

There is a booklet called "Introducing Heather" which covers a lot of the topics you want to research. It was written by David Lambie of the Speyside Heather Centre. Details are ISBN 1-872825-04-4, published by Firtree Publishing Ltd., Fort William in 1994.

Q I have been going around in circles trying to figure out which might be the best variety of Heather to try for the following application: We are trying to set up a biological air filter in a factory and were told that the best would be peat moss with heather growing on top of it. The factory is located in Ensenada, Baja California Mexico. Yes, it is a warm climate in summer, but the filter tank would be indoors with a watering system. Which variety of heather would you think might do best?

A This is going to be very difficult. If the filter tank is going to be indoors, I wonder whether there will be sufficient light for the heather to grow well.

As regards which species, it is easier to say what will not grow well. I would avoid *Calluna vulgaris* at all costs (although this is the genuine heather) as it is very prone to fungal disease in hot conditions. *Erica tetralix* might be a good candidate as this rarely suffers from disease and is used to bog-like conditions but how it will like the hot conditions in Mexico is anyone's guess. A southern Mediterranean species might fare better and I would choose *Erica manipuliflora*.

Q I work for the Biosecurity Unit of the Department of Conservation in New Zealand. In 2001 the Department declared *Calluna vulgaris* (Scottish heather) to be an unwanted organism under NZ biosecurity legislation (Biosecurity Act 1993). This makes it an offence to sell, propagate, distribute, or display this species in New Zealand. It also allows other powers of the Act to be used to enter property/land, undertake management actions, etc. The declaration was made because *Calluna vulgaris* has become a serious environmental weed in tussock grassland and upland environments in the colder inland and southern parts of New Zealand.

We have recently had a request to make double-flowered *Calluna vulgaris*

cultivars/varieties exempt from these restrictions. Information provided by the applicant suggests that these varieties/cultivars are: a) unable to set seed, b) very stable - with reversion to wild type very rare. I would appreciate if you could provide me with any information or references you may have on: a) the reproductive capability of *Calluna* cultivars/varieties, b) the stability of any cultivar forms/varieties, c) any evidence of their spreading or becoming a conservation issue within the natural range of *Calluna vulgaris*.

A We are well aware of the difficulties you face in New Zealand with *Calluna vulgaris* on North Island but we hadn't realised it was a problem in South Island too.

Calluna vulgaris is a very variable species but as far as flowering parts are concerned it falls into five groups.

1. Single flowers are, of course, very reproductive and should remain banned.

2. The so-called bud-bloomer types have no anthers and the buds fail to open but occasionally they will produce the odd normal flower which is capable of producing seed. These are rare in the wild in Europe and are unlikely to be a pest in New Zealand.

3. The multibracteate group have deformed flowers made up of a proliferation of bracts. Again they are capable of producing the odd normal flower. These can be locally common but are generally rare in the wild. They have little decorative value and hence we would recommend these remain banned.

4. Fully, double flowers where the stamens have become petaloid. They do not produce pollen nor can they set seed. They are extremely stable and do not produce any normal flowers or revert in any way. These plants are extremely rare in the wild and do not represent a threat.

5. The difficulty you face is that there are some semi-double varieties where not all of the stamens have become petaloid. It is just possible that some of these cultivars could produce seed, although we have no record of them doing so.

To be extremely careful, you would need to allow the growing of fully double varieties on a cultivar by cultivar basis. We would be happy to advise.

Group Meetings

North East

As I write this in early January we are in the middle of a gale storm, plus the rain is lashing down, but the winter heathers seem undeterred and are bravely showing good colour whilst being tossed about. The ever-faithful heather!!

Looking forward to warmer days - the dates for your diary are as follows:

Annual Outing, Sunday, May 8th: Newby Hall, North Yorkshire.

Car Outing, Wednesday, July 6th: Bide-a-wee garden near Morpeth.

Annual Show, Saturday, September 10th: Memorial Hall, Ponteland.

A.G.M. Friday, October 28th: St. Matthew's Church Hall, Ponteland, 2.30 pm.

Please note we are holding our A.G.M. in the afternoon so that those attending who travel a distance at least do one way of the journey in daylight. How's that for consideration! Full details of all these functions will be sent out nearer the time.

Best wishes to you all for a good heather year.

Dorothy M. Warner.

Yorkshire

Dates for your Diary:

5th March Michael Myers will talk on *Winter Colour* in the Study Centre at Harlow Carr.

4th June David Plumridge will talk about *Daboecias*.

?? July There will be a visit to Scampston Hall near Malton.

17th September is still to be arranged.

Jean Julian

East Midlands

On 16th October 2004, Mrs. Jean Julian, General Secretary of the Heather Society, addressed a meeting of the East Midlands Group on the subject "Heaths and Heathers".

Jean based her talk on slides from *The Heather Society* slide library that contains 5,000 slides. Apart from the quality of her talk, her selection of photographs impressed us with the range and quality of the slide collection they represented.

She started with a spectacular shot of mountains with cape heaths in the foreground and this sequence continued with photographs of South African heathers including some excellent close-ups. Some of the pictures were taken in South Africa and some in the University of California Santa Cruz arboretum.

She went on to deal with the heathers of Europe and the Azores using photographs taken in major public gardens, such as RHS Wisley, Cherrybank, and Harlow Carr, as well as in private gardens and in the wild.

Her audience became quite nostalgic as pictures appeared of heathers we grew and loved 20 and more years ago but which have since disappeared from nurseries and garden centres in this country.

Nine people were present including five from the East Midlands Group. This was a disappointing turnout for a very fine lecture but I am grateful to members of the Yorkshire Group who travelled a long way to attend.

Summer 2005

By kind invitation of Mr Peter Bingham, a visit is planned to the Kingfisher Nursery, Gedney Hill, Spalding on **Saturday, March 12th**. We plan to assemble at the Nursery at around 1.45pm for a 2 pm start. The winter heathers should be in bloom at the time of the visit and there is much of interest to see at this large, modern heather nursery. The nursery is situated at Gedney Hill, near Spalding, Lincolnshire on the B1166 road between Holbeach Drove and Gedney Hill.

Mr Bob Rope invites us to see his garden at Ravenshead, Nottingham on **September 17th**. The meeting is scheduled for a 2 pm start. Further details and route directions will be published in the Summer *Bulletin*. I will as usual circulate a sketch of the route nearer the date to members of the Group and to members of other groups who send me a stamped addressed envelope. Bob has a lovely heather garden that is well worth visiting.

Allen Hall

Home Counties

It is planned to hold our first get together of 2005 in conjunction with Allen Hall's East Midlands Group on a visit to Mr Peter Bingham's Kingfisher Nursery, Gedney Hill, Spalding on **Saturday, March 12th**. We plan to assemble at the nursery at around 1.45pm for a 2 pm start. The winter heathers should be in bloom at the time of the visit and there is much of interest to see at this large, modern heather nursery.

The nursery is situated at Gedney Hill, near Spalding, Lincolnshire on the B1166 road between Holbeach Drove and Gedney Hill and the address is: Gedney Hill, Spalding Lincs PE12 0RU.

South West

In the Autumn Bulletin I explained that the position of Treasurer of *The Heather Society*, which I inherited in September 2003, was taking up many hours of my "spare time" and therefore after some 25 years as the Organiser for this group the March meeting would be the last local group meeting that I would organise. I also said that it was time to hand over the reins and I was therefore looking for a successor, someone who felt that he or she could organise 2 or 3 meetings each year, could produce 1 or 2 circulars a year and could write a short report for each of the 3 Bulletins. I regret to say that, as yet, no such volunteer has come forward. However whilst I still await the volunteer and because of my wish that face to face contact between members should be maintained I have decided I will announce through the Society Bulletins ONLY that Lin and I will be attending a "public garden" in the area on a certain date. If members wish to join us then I will be pleased to enjoy their company and there would be no need for them to inform me of their attendance prior to the event. Members should understand that this "loose" arrangement will involve no organising on my part i.e. no circulars, no guided tours and no group rates. I will, of course, continue to hope that a successor will be forthcoming over the next few months. I will start this arrangement in 2006 but for 2005, the Conference, based in Bournemouth in September, will give an opportunity for local members to get together on an occasion other than the Lytchett Matravers meeting described below.

Saturday 12th March - This will be the annual indoor meeting at the Lytchett Matravers Village Hall in Dorset and will be the last meeting of its type. Members should meet at the hall from 1.45 p.m. for a 2.00 p.m. start. As this is a "last" meeting I have decided to compile a slide show of reminiscences of some of our past meetings for your entertainment and enjoyment. After the slides we will have our usual chance to have a chat over tea and cakes. There will also be the two class Table Show:

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

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

Prizes will be awarded and the Burfitt Bowl (currently held by Anne Pringle) 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 adjacent to the hall in front of the playing fields. On this occasion there will be no charge for the meeting.

Friday 9th - Monday 12th September

The 2005 *Heather Society* gathering, incorporating the Annual Conference and the AGM, will be held on SW Group territory. I hope that SW Group members will take the opportunity to get involved either as residential or day visitors or even as visitors at a particular event. Please see details elsewhere in this Bulletin

Further dates for your diary -

Further information on the Lytchett Matravers meeting can be obtained by

sending me a SAE at your earliest convenience. If you intend to come to this meeting then I would be grateful if you could ring me or e-mail me about 10 days before the meeting (TEL: 023 8086 4336 E-MAIL: pjoyner@supanet.com). I will announce the garden(s) that Lin and I intend to visit in 2006 in either the Summer or the Autumn Bulletin. I finish this report by thanking you all for your support and friendship during the past 25+ years.

Phil Joyner

New Members In 2004

Zone 1

CHRISTIE Mrs. F, 14 Port Ann, By Lochgilphead, Argyll, Scotland, PA31 8SE.
HOULDSWORTH Mr M, Helen Glen, Bowland Road, Clovenfords, Galashiels, TD1 3ND
HUGHES Dr. M G B, Burnfoot, Eddleston, Peebles, Scotland, EH45 8PL.
SHANKLAND Mrs. A, 5 Cleve Drive, Cherrybank, Perth, Scotland, PH1 1HH.

Zone 4

BRZESKI Mr M, 37 Cherry Tree Terrace, Cherry Tree, Blackburn Lancashire. BB2 5NA.
HULL Prof. D, 17 Oldfield Gardens, Heswall, Wirral, Cheshire, CH60 6TG.

Zone 5

McIVOR Dr. I D, 41 Shoreham Drive, Rotherham, S. Yorkshire, S60 3DT.
WHITE Mrs., 21 The Crayke, Marton Fields, Bridlington, E. Yorkshire, YO16 6YP.
WOODWARD Mr & Mrs. T J, Heather Dene, Moor Monkton, N. Yorkshire, YO26 8JA.

Zone 6

DARRAGH Mrs. A, 10 Southgate, Pinchbeck, Spalding, Lincolnshire, PE11 3PP.

Zone 7

COATES Mr L J, 64a Church Street, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL53 8AS.

ORR Mr A L S, 48 Blue Cap Road, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 6TQ.

Zone 8

HARGREAVES Mr D A H, 1 Caer Onnen, Pentre Halkyn, Holywell, Flintshire, CH8 8JX.
VINEY Mr M C, 8 Osprey Close, St. Mellons, Cardiff, CF3 0DG.

Zone 9

RACEY Mr & Mrs. M S, 1 Abbots Hall Road, Stowmarket, Suffolk IP14 1AU.

Zone 10

AUBREY Mr & Mrs. J, Redlands, Ellis Avenue, Chalfont Heights, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, SL9 9UA.

Zone 12

GILES Mr D, Rumsey Gardens, 117 Drift Road, Clanfield, Waterlooville, Hampshire, PO8 0PD.

WARD Dr. L K, 53 Miles Avenue, Sandford, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 7AS.

Zone 13

ANDERSON, Mrs. S, Heather Farm, North Road, Pendeen, Penzance, Cornwall, TR19 7TH
ROGERS Mrs. D, 6 Higher Bridge Park, St. Matthew's Hill, Wadebridge, Cornwall, PL27 6UW.
ROWE Mr G, 31 Great Furlong, Bishopsteignton, Teignmouth, Devon, TQ14 9TU.

Zone 14

ALLEN Mr J H, Glebe Rd. Gardens, 162 Glebe Rd, Chamcook, NB, Canada, E5B 3C4.
LABBÉ, P M, Juana de Arco 2012 Apt. 44, Providencia/Santiago, Chile.
LANNING, Ms M R, 841 East Phillips Lake Loop Road, Shelton, WA 98584, U.S.A.
REILLING Mr G R, 92 Stürup Lane, Levittown, NY 11756, U.S.A.
SÆLE Mr E A, Nordre Sæle, Helleøy 5334, Norway.
SALVESEN Mr P H, Sørås Høgda 152, N-5235 Rådal, Norway.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Zone 10

WILLIAMS Mrs. W M, 8 Holmfield Way, Weston Favell, Northampton, NN3 3BJ.

Zone 11

TURPIN Mrs. C, Springfield House, 6 Stoke Road, Cobham, Surrey, KT11 3AS.

DECEASED

Zone 11

DELVES Mr H C, Moorsfort Cottage, 18 Fife Road, London, SW14 7EL.

NICHOLSON MR H L, Farm Cottage, Westcott Road, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 3EB.

RESIGNATIONS

Zone 1

RAE Miss E I, Raemohr, Tippetty, Ellon, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, AB41 8LX.

Zone 2

TURPIN Mr & Mrs. G, The Bungalow, Netherfield, Irthington, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA6 4NH.

Zone 7

TICKLE Mr F H, Dakota, 10 Bathfields Crescent, Whitchurch, Shropshire, SY13 1DA.

Zone 9

IRVING Mr & Mrs. M G, 108 Dawlish Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, SS9 1QS.

Zone 10

SPRINGHAM Mr A M, Freshfield, Old Mead Road, Henham, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, CM22 6JQ.

Computer Problems?

With apologies to all non-Computer users

18 months ago, I upgraded to **Girlfriend 1.0** from **DrinkingMates 4.2**, which I had used for years without any trouble. However, there are apparently conflicts between these two products and the only solution was to try and run **Girlfriend 1.0** with the sound turned off.

To make matters worse, **Girlfriend 1.0** is incompatible with several other applications, such as **LadsNightOut 3.1**, **Football 4.5**, and **Playboy 6.9**. Successive versions of **GirlFriend** proved no better. I tried a shareware program, **Slapper 2.1**, but it had many bugs and left a virus in my system, forcing me to shut down completely for several weeks.

Eventually, I tried to run **Girlfriend 1.2** and **Girlfriend 1.0** at the same time, only to discover that when these two systems detected each other they caused severe damage to my hardware. I eventually upgraded to **Fiancé 1.0**, only to discover that this product soon had to be upgraded further to **Wife 1.0**.

While **Wife 1.0** tends to use up all my available resources, it does come bundled with **FreeSexPlus** and **Cleanhouse 2003**.

Shortly after this upgrade, however, I found that **Wife 1.0** could be very unstable and costly to run. Any mistakes I made were automatically stored in **Wife 1.0**'s memory and could not be deleted. They then resurfaced months later when I had forgotten about them.

Wife 1.0 also has an automatic Diary, Explorer and E-mail filter, and can, without warning, launch **Turbostrop** and **Whinge**. These latter products have no Help files, and I have to try to guess what the problem is.

Additional problems are that **Wife 1.0** needs updating regularly, requiring **Shoe Shop Browser** for new attachments and **Hairstyle Express** which needs to be re-installed every sixth week.

Also, when **Wife 1.0** attaches itself to my **Porsche911** or **MercedesEstate** hard drive, it often crashes. **Wife 1.0** also comes with an irritating pop-up called Mother In Law, which can't be turned off.

Recently I've been tempted to install **Mistress 2004**, but there could be problems. A friend of mine has alerted me to the fact that if **Wife 1.0** detects **Mistress 2004**, it tends to delete all of **Money** before uninstalling itself.

Can anyone help?

The British Conifer Society

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Contact:

BCS Secretary
Bedgebury National Pinetum
Goudhurst
Kent
TN17 15L

Tel: 01580211044 ext 231

E-mail: daniel.luscombe@forestry.gsi.gov.uk



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