

*Bulletin of The
Heather Society*



Vol. 6 No. 20

Spring 2007

DIARY OF EVENTS

2007

17 March Yorkshire Talk at Field Centre, Harlow Carr

24 March South West Visit to Furzey Gardens

6 May North East Visit to Kiplin Hall

15 May **CLOSING DATE FOR SUMMER BULLETIN**

2 June Yorkshire Talk at Field Centre, Harlow Carr

8-14 July Field Trip to Northern Spain

18 August East Midlands Visit to The Bannut

7-10 September **CONFERENCE** South Wales

22 September Yorkshire Talk at Study Centre, Harlow Carr

22 September Home Counties Wisley Meeting



A Registered Charity No. 261407

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Cover illustration Erica Carnea by Brita Johansson

There have been changes to the administration of the Society. Our Yearbook Editor, Charles Nelson, has put on yet another hat and has taken over from Anne Small the arduous job as Administrator. As you can imagine, the reorganisation has caused him much extra work, so Heathers 4 will now come out with the Summer Bulletin and (hopefully) the second CD of heather pictures also. I am sure you will all wish to join me in adding to the Appreciations below, with our own thanks to Anne for her quiet efficiency over so many years.

Anne Small

An Appreciation from the Chairman

Members will notice that the name of our administrator Anne Small appears no more on the back page of the Bulletin, the first time since 1986. Fortunately for Charles Nelson who took over on December 1st 2006, although she is enjoying a well earned rest, she will be available to offer help and advice if required.

Anne has been the initial contact for new members for all these years and has carried out her task extremely efficiently, and apart from looking after the members, the Council have particular reason to be grateful for her help and willing attitude to any requests from us.

The burden of her admin. duties will be lifted, but, being married to our President, she will not be able to escape entirely from *Heather Society* work!

Finally, on a personal note, many thanks Anne for all you have done for the Society. It is greatly appreciated.

Arnold Stow.



An Appreciation from the Treasurer

Anne Small retired as Administrator of the Heather Society at the end of November 2006 after serving in that position for 20 years having taken over from Beryl Farrah on the 1st January 1986. During that time Anne has been a dedicated and tireless servant of the Society and I have been close witness to this in both my previous role as Conference Organiser and in my current role as Hon. Treasurer. Anne has spent many hours working for the Society answering queries, taking subscriptions, taking orders for sales material, packing and posting sales material just to mention a few of her tasks. Anne with the help of her husband, David our President, brought the administration of the Society into the computer age and streamlined the affairs of the Society but still retained the personal touch when interfacing with members. In my capacity as Hon. Treasurer I have been ever grateful to Anne for making my task easier because of her ability to provide the data in such a form as to minimise the effort required for the processing of the accounts.

I am sure, and indeed I know, that Anne will continue to provide a service to the Society for some months to come as she has agreed to advise and provide assistance to our new Administrator, Charles Nelson, during the transition period. I thank you Anne for all your invaluable help over the years.
Phil Joyner

Change of Rule **Jean Julian - Hon. Secretary**

The Heather Society Council has decided to change the title of Rule 14 of the Society's rules to state "Independent Examiner or Auditor". This will allow an examination of the 2006 accounts to take place prior to the Annual General Meeting. This change of rule will be ratified at the Annual General Meeting in September 2007.

This change has had to be made because of the new charity accounting rules (SORP2005), which come into effect for the 2006 year end accounts. Charities with an income of between £10,000 and £250,000 may opt to have their accounts reviewed by an Independent Examiner. An auditor will complete a full expensive audit of finances and all tasks performed by the Society and its members. An Independent Examination will cost in the region of £250 whilst an audit would be beyond our price range.

Conference & Annual Gathering - 2007

Date: 7, 8, 9 September and until after breakfast on 10th

Location: Hotel Mariners, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, Wales.

Pembrokeshire is the south west corner of Wales and is dominated by the rugged coastline, which is undeveloped and of outstanding natural beauty. Our hotel is in the heart of Haverfordwest and a warm welcome will await you in this small family hotel

Price: £220 sharing, £250 single

Programme: As usual we shall start with registration at 4.00 p.m. at the hotel.

After dinner Matt Sutton, Senior Conservation Officer (Pembrokeshire) will talk to us about the Marloes Coast Project. This is another example of work being carried out to restore natural heathland. Of course the Society is always keen to hear about such projects.

Saturday: In the morning, Matt will take us to Marloes to see the work that is being done to preserve this heathland. We then travel by coach to Picton Castle for a light lunch and a tour of the castle and gardens. The castle is still habited by the Phillips family who have been keepers, since the 15th century. We are lucky in choosing this weekend, as Picton Castle will holding a rare plant fair, which gives an opportunity for browsing after the tour of the castle and gardens.

On Saturday night there will be a chance to see what happened on the Field Trip to Northern Spain.

Sunday: The day will start with the A.G.M. This is an opportunity for members to take part in the affairs of the Society. A welcome cup of coffee and then we shall travel to the National Botanic Garden of Wales. The garden has been established since the Millennium and has so many interesting features, that we hope there will be enough time to see everything. Whatever your interest there is something that will attract you in these gardens.

Sunday evening will see the return of the 'Open Forum', an occasion to discuss any aspect of heather culture that you would like "an expert" to give help with. There will be a slightly different format; any member who wishes to share aspects of their garden, is invited to bring 10 slides or digital photos for showing during this informal evening. There will also be a short auction of heather books and memorabilia and we shall be urging you to delve deep into your pockets for that elusive book.

There will be our own rare plant sale taking place during the Conference, so we need you to start those cuttings now. When you are doing your annual pruning pop some of the ends that have started to grow away into some rooting compost and then bring the successful little plants to share with other members.

We shall take our leave of each other after breakfast on Monday morning.

Should you wish to come for only part of the weekend, this can be arranged, either as a day visitor or for one or two nights.

Bookings are now being taken and can be made either through Anne Small, Denbeigh, All Saints Road, Creeting St. Mary, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP6 8PJ (Tel. 01449 711220) or myself. My address is at the back of the bulletin.

The full amount is payable by **JULY 1ST 2007**. After that date we shall do our best to accommodate you. The hotel needs to have confirmation by 1st July and this is why we need you to think about this now.

Council looks forward to seeing as many members as possible at Conference 2007.

Susie Kay

Field Trip to Northern Spain



Have you ever fantasized about seeing a large number of your favourite plants in one area? And how about the thought of following in the footsteps of the "Thrilling Three" – Messrs. McClintock, Nelson and Small – in their quest for new heathers in Northern Spain? Now is your chance!!!! On behalf of The Heather Society, Charles Nelson is planning a field trip to Northern Spain in JULY 2007.

This is really "A once in a lifetime opportunity" to see at first hand perhaps 10 species of European heathers in their spectacular, natural habitats. Charles has secured the services of Teresa Farino, herself a leading botanical tour-guide in Iberia who lives in and has a wealth of knowledge of the area we shall visit.

Dates are 8th– 14th July 2007, with the major meeting point being Asturias (Oviedo) Airport. Local transport will be in 2 self-driven people-

carriers: Charles and Teresa will be our chauffeurs. Accommodation will be in comfortable small hotels.

The cost of this tour, excluding flights, but including half-board accommodation, picnic lunches, minibuss transport, all entry fees and services of the leaders, is £710, with a single supplement of £90. You would be responsible for your own airfare and insurance.

We suggest flying from Stanstead, England: Easyjet is the carrier and, with early booking, the cost of the airfare should not be too high. As you can see places are limited and it will be a case of first come, first served. So think about this carefully and speedily, there will not be another time.

You know there is great fun to be had on a trip of this kind with like-minded companions. As well as the fun there is wonderful scenery and the opportunity to learn more about the intriguing culture (it won't all be botany!) and exceptional flora of northern Spain.

We shall be investigating the flora of a range of habitats in northern Spain – including coastal heathlands, peatbogs, limestone pavement at more than 2000m and Mediterranean forest – at a relaxed pace, leaving plenty of time for botanising and photography. As some of our excursions will be taking in mountain areas, we will have to walk uphill on occasion, and may encounter some rough ground

The best map for the area we are going to visit is Michelin no. 572 (1:250,000), entitled Asturias, Cantabria. A few weeks before the tour commences, Teresa will send you a copy of her report detailing the Flora and Fauna of the Picos de Europa, but bear in mind that this will not cover all the species we might encounter in the coastal sections of Asturias.

For more information or to book for this trip, please contact Dr E. Charles Nelson. Address: Tippiwitchet Cottage, Hall Road, OUTWELL, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, PE14 8PE, UK. Tel. +44 (0) 1945 774077 or 0845 3240580 [local-rate in UK]. Email: admin@heathersociety.org.uk or tippitwitchet@zetnet.co.uk

Tippitiwitchet Corner: The Administrator's Log

E. Charles Nelson - Registrar, *The Heather Society* (ICRA for Erica)

This should be a regular feature of *Bulletins* to come, to keep members informed and up-to-date.

I took over from Anne Small on 1 December last and I must thank Anne for her patience, and for her prompt responses to my numerous trivial questions about how things are done and what goes where. I am most grateful too for her careful explanations of *The Heather Society's* "inner workings". Phil Joyner has also been helpful and patient. Consequently I hope the transition from Denbeigh in Suffolk to Tippitiwitchet Cottage in Norfolk will be almost seamless. (By the way, I retain my jobs as Cultivar Registrar and Editor of the *Yearbook*!)

Below I have detailed the changes that arise from the new administration arrangements. For quick reference the new details are on the back cover of this *Bulletin*.

E-mail: One significant change should be carefully noted by all members who have e-mail. The Administrator's e-mail address is admin@heathersociety.org.uk in which *heathersociety* is all one word and all lower case. This address comes to my e-mail-box and can be used for any administrative matters, as well as for editorial correspondence connected with the *Yearbook*, and all enquiries about heather names and registrations of cultivars.

Please note that the present e-mail address for the Registrar – registrar@zetnet.co.uk – will be discontinued in a few months time, leaving only the one e-mail contact address.

When I respond to e-mails the address in the heading of the reply will be tippitiwitchet@zetnet.co.uk – don't worry about this as it is the same e-mail-box and you may reply to it.

The former e-mail address heathers@zetnet.co.uk will still operate but it is David Small's personal email address. David will forward mail to me but we ask members who use email for Heather Society business to change over to the new address as soon as possible.

Postal address: *The Heather Society's* administration address is now: c/o Tippitiwitchet Cottage, Hall Road, Outwell, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, PE14 8PE UK. (Our house is in Norfolk – geographically speaking it is situated just 20 metres east of the Norfolk-Cambridge border – but the postal address is Wisbech which is in Cambridgeshire!)

Phone number: The telephone number for Tippitiwitchet Cottage is: 01945 774077 (from outside the UK please use dialling code + 44).

NEW MEMBERS IN 2006

Second Heather Society CD

Our President is preparing the second CD of Members' heather-related photographs, which, he hopes to include with the Summer mailing. He will be very pleased to receive pictures for inclusion by any other than floppy disks. At the moment the Society's overseas members are outdoing our home-grown members with their contributions (though he would still like more) so, UK members, send your pictures off to David as soon as you can!

***Erica mackayana* – y? Oh! Why?**

The unfamiliar name in the heading is the correct name for Mackay's heath – henceforth we must not use *Erica mackaiana*! The “i” must be replaced by a “y”, because James Townsend's surname was Mackay with a terminal “y”.

But why must the name be changed after 170 years of complete, rock-solid stability? Isn't this making a nonsense of plant nomenclature? I can answer the first question, and refrain from a comment on the second.

Why? In brief, the *International code of botanical nomenclature (Vienna Code) adopted by the Seventeenth International Botanical Congress Vienna, Austria, July 2005*, published during the Autumn 2006, contains a revised Article 60.7 that lays out new guidelines for the formation of names from personal names (eponyms) where implicit Latinization of those names occurred. The opinion hitherto held was that C. C. Babington when coining *mackaiana* had implicitly latinized the surname Mackay. The revised rule states (and it is the exception that is significant): “When changes in spelling by authors who adopt personal, geographic, or vernacular names in nomenclature are intentional Latinizations, they are to be preserved, except when they concern (a) only the termination of the epithets ... or (b) changes to personal names involving (1) omissions of a final vowel or final consonant or (2) conversion of a final vowel to a different vowel, for which the final letter of the name is to be restored.” One example given which is relevant to the case of *Erica mackaiana* is as follows: “... *Hypericum* “buckleii” ... commemorate[s] ... S. B. Buckley. The implicit latinization ... Buckleius ... [is] not acceptable under Art 60.7. The name [is] correctly ... *H. buckleyi* ...”

Thus in *Erica*, *E. “mackaiana”*, after J. T. Mackay, must be changed to *E. mackayana*, and (a Cape heath) *E. “harveiana”*, after the Limerick-born botanist W. H. Harvey, must be changed to *E. harveyana*.

Of course, this change is annoying – books and nurserymen's catalogues, labels in gardens and garden centres, international registers and databases, all have to be amended, although probably at small expense beyond great irritation. We have to follow the rules too – the *RHS plant finder* has used the spelling *mackayana* for some time.

An Oregon Extravaganza **First printed in Heather News** **The Quarterly Magazine of the North American Heather** **Society** **David Plumridge**

When we read about the NAHS Annual Conference we were immediately tempted -especially by the pre-conference tour. A closer look revealed it was to take place at peak holiday time with higher congestion and costs. Being on the west coast it was a very long way to go from here in England so it would make sense to linger. We hadn't seen the Canadian Rockies and it would be a chance to visit amateur radio friends in Calgary and Saskatoon. We had The

visited Oregon with Ella May following the "Redwood Empire" conference and tour ten years previously and were sure it would be worth a second look. The Californian event would be a hard act to follow, but we had no doubt Ella May, Stefani and friends would come up trumps.

How right we were to push the boat out! We were treated to a superb mix of different gardens and scenery. The first visit was to Bernie Lautenschlater's garden. We got a clue from the heathers growing in the roadside ditch bordering the property. His heather displays were wonderful – and extensive. Despite the dry climate and his minimal irrigation of established *Callunas*, they were gorgeous! The recollection of our 'mini spikes' made us quite jealous! Other different yet fascinating gardens and nurseries followed. Those and the haunting Oregon coastal scenery with its sea lion colony and lighthouses will stay in our memories (and our pixels!).

Were we forced to select our most memorable garden it would probably be Bloom River Gardens. This was a heather and conifer planting on a hillside setting topped by an ornamental brown wooden residence nestling amongst tall trees. It may be considered 'old hat' over here but heathers interplanted with choice conifers are, for us, a hard to beat combination. It was there we spotted large bright red apples in the orchard. Closer inspection revealed they were in fact sticky plastic spheres with a collection of dead bugs. They were doing their job. Owner Mark told us they reduced insect damage from 50% to 5 - 10% and he no longer needed to spray. We are going to try them in our mini orchard – if we can locate them over here.

We picked up another useful tip during our visit to Yachats. Instead of the usual plant labels, Peggy Gray uses a suitable marker pen to write the plants' names on pebbles which she places under or beside the plant. So much better than the 'graveyards' of white plant labels often seen in alpine gardens. Her neighbour Bev Barmore had a delightful mixed garden (with heathers!) on a little hill. The difficulties of gardening in their



Mediterranean climate were brought home when I asked about irrigation. She told me it cost her around \$200 per month. Her husband was quite content with this as he confided his boating fun hit the family budget a wee bit harder! It was pleasing to see the use of heathers in professional landscaping in their area.

Seeing great gardens wouldn't have been such fun without the company of other heather aficionados backed up by seamless tour arrangements. That we were kept well fed in excellent accommodations spoke highly of the hard preparation work by the team.

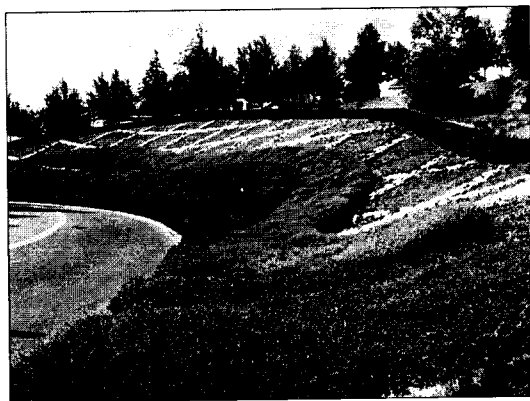
We were a pretty international bunch with about half of us coming from Europe. As well as having fun, the experience was at times highly educational.

We could listen to comments by botanical experts from Germany -Kurt Kramer and Jurgen Schroder. Our American and Canadian friends helped identify unfamiliar cultivars and we learned about their experiences with heather growing in various areas of North America. We also learned that Susie Kay, despite having an amazingly mild climate on the west coast of Ireland seems to have many more problems than we have in the Pennines in the north of England.

Following our memorable four day tour, we returned to Salem for the NAHS Annual Conference. The high standard continued of garden visits continued with this well-organised event. Those who have seen the programme would guess that the highlight would be Kurt Kramer's presentation. They were correct. Having been fortunate enough to have visited Kurt's nursery and enjoy his company on the pre-conference tour, this was the icing on the cake! It should really have been recorded for the benefit of those unable to attend. We met many old heather friends and made new ones. Why are heather people in particular so amiable?

Our enjoyment continued with old friends Ella May and Barry. They had invited us to stay for a few days along with Dorothea and Jurgen Shroeder, so fun and laughter were guaranteed! It was great to be able to spend time in Ella May's heather garden. We had watched it grow - via the internet - and now we were seeing it in all its glory. Our favourite plants grow so well in Oregon - helped along by irrigation in the summer. We were treated to further garden and nursery visits and we saw more of the delightful state of Oregon. Its climate is well exploited by growers of all kinds. In particular the miles - not acres - of Christmas trees covering hillsides were amazing, especially the ones clipped to the perfect conical shape. They are sent not only over all the USA but even to Japan. On our way to Portland we saw the most amazing example of heather landscaping. It was on a hillside along a curving road with several hundred yards of a striking sine wave of purple *Calluna*. Stefi made illegal manoeuvres so we could return for another look and, of course, photos!

Time to leave Oregon and head north to Vancouver. A further treat was to over-fly Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Ranier with the snow clad Rockies in the distance. On moving seats to get a better view I found myself next to an



Australian vulcanologist studying Mt. St. Helens, who more than put me in the picture. That was followed by whale watching from the ferry to Salt Spring Island. The ferry had to stop to allow a pod of killer whales to pass. We were much closer than whale watch tours are allowed.

The island is the home of Joyce and John Prothero who entertained us beautifully for a couple a days. They are blessed

with wonderful views and delightful sailing which we enjoyed one afternoon in the continued fine weather.

It was then back to the mainland for our final heather experience. Before we left home we were told David Wilson's renowned garden and nursery would be off limits due to hygiene restrictions. This was a great disappointment as our planned trip to the Rockies from Vancouver would be en route. We had recently planted *Erica x garforthensis* 'Tracy Wilson' and would have loved to have seen her birthplace! However, while chatting at the conference David kindly invited us to visit, so we did achieve our ambition after all!

Sadly, no more heathers, but this was more than made up by the magnificent Canadian Rockies enhanced by a recent snow fall. Our tour continued with nary a hitch to Calgary, and thence over the prairies to Saskatoon.

So a great holiday – probably our best tour! Our grateful thanks go to the hard working teams from the North American and Oregon Heather Societies who made it such a memorable and happy experience.

Thirty Years Ago From the 1977 Yearbook

As our summers continue to get hotter and water restrictions get worse, I thought the observations and the advice given by two writers to the Yearbook after the 1976 drought might make interesting reading and provide useful advice for some members in 2007. Ed.

Heathers in the Great Drought Mrs. Mary Jones, Trowbridge, Wiltshire

When we left our mature heather garden of acid sandy soil above gravel, with a good deal of moss peat incorporated over the years, we wondered if it might prove to be the end of our heather gardening. We knew we were about to tackle a new and much smaller garden on the heaviest of clay. We were ignorant then as to its pH, which we feared might prove to be alkaline. However, since gardeners are incurable optimists, we took with us from Worcestershire to West Wiltshire, a large selection of rooted cuttings from our old garden.

We moved at the end of August 1975, and, the dry autumn and winter, which failed to fill the country's reservoirs, proved an ideal opportunity for us to press ahead on soil which in a wet autumn would have been of the consistency of old-fashioned toffee.

The moss peat we had used in the past had become too expensive, but we were able to fetch a load of sedge peat much cheaper direct from the digger. Where the original top soil remained, it consisted of old meadow land, and this of course was much better than the area where trees had been removed and the subsoil brought to the surface. In fact, like most new gardens, our soil was like the curate's egg, good in parts.

We took a pH test, and found to our delight that this was neutral, so with the addition of peat we planted our heathers. By Easter of this year our garden had taken shape. Mr. and Mrs. Jones of West Camel kindly supplied us with various plants of *carneas*. We were also able to obtain several tree heaths, including the golden foliaged 'George Hunt', from other local sources, and some of our favourite hybrids and *erigenas*, such as 'George Rendall', 'Furzey' and 'Superba'.

May came, and we began to think it would be nice to have rain, but enjoyed sitting in the sun and watching the profusion of butterflies, (many of them quite uncommon varieties - but this is not a lepidopterists' article!). The butterflies really had a ball on the early annual flowers, but when they were over, and June ran its course, we began to look at each other with a wild surmise, as our water butt became quite empty and whenever a small cloud appeared in the dazzling blue, it seemed to turn sharp left and make appropriately for Bath.

July came, hoses had long been forbidden, and the era of saving the washing-up water began. There was no ban on using a watering-can, but our mains water came from deep boreholes, and was very chalky. Just the weather for lying on the beach, but after so much effort to get the new garden established, my husband was determined not to go away and abandon his pets to that perpetual sunshine. Morning and evening the old watering can went its rounds, *Camellia* or *Calluna*, they had their dose of chalky water, there was no alternative, and most of their tipple was laced with Fairy Liquid as well.

Thus we continued until the Great Drought broke with thunderstorms at the end of the first week in September, and since then the heavens have opened almost every day.

What has been the result? Deaths, only three small *Callunas*. Growth of the young plants, very little, but more than we expected, and now going ahead. *Carneas* on the whole have budded up very well, but in the front garden, which we watered more than the back (because it was nearer!), the *carneas* have more flower. 'Ann Sparkes' in the front area received more water than at the back, and has coloured better at the front and made more flower buds. To our surprise the *cinereas*, of which we have only a few because we did not think they would do well on our soil, flowered well for their size, and are looking very healthy. Our tree heaths, very miserable by the end of the drought, but did not turn brown, and now are improving rapidly. The new 'George Hunt' is doing particularly well and is a lovely golden colour. 'Mrs. D. F. Maxwell' flowered well for the size of the plants and is now making new growth. 'Valerie Proudley' went brown at the tips despite regular watering, but appears to be gradually recovering.

'Elsie Purnell', although watered very little, stood up to the drought amazingly well. 'H. E. Beale' also survived quite well. We brought only one young plant of 'Peter Sparkes' with us, and although it was a good plant it has scarcely survived; 'Robert Chapman' and golden-foliaged *Callunas* were looking rather distressed at the end of the drought. We lost two, but a dressing of damp shredded pine bark seemed to help them and others are now looking well. The other casualty was one *Calluna* 'Alba Plena'.

We are astonished at the resilience of the heathers. We wonder if the impervious nature of the subsoil actually helped us in this situation, and whether we should have had more casualties on free-draining soil. We are busy top-dressing with well-matured shredded bark, which we can obtain very easily. It now remains to be seen what the effect of perhaps a very wet winter will be on our soil, the texture of which has already improved. Perhaps gardeners should be optimists, as long as they do their homework properly. Of course, a fairly small garden, plus retirement, meant that we were able to concentrate our minds wonderfully, like Dr. Johnson's man about to be hanged.

How did your Heathers stand the Drought?

G. Yates, Nottingham

Two successive hot, dry summers, with a wet winter in between have created a new standard by which garden plants are judged, and it is interesting to assess the performance of heathers in this context. I have taken every possible opportunity in the past few months to find out as much as possible about garden conditions, including soil and shade, and especially how plants been planted and cared for in the gardens of those who have lost no plants this season, as well as those who may have lost many.

It does seem that there has been little difference, if any, between the various species in tolerance to the drought and heat, but I am not alone in finding that *Daboecia* cultivars have recovered rapidly once rain did come, flowering with abandon and still doing so in late November. Most other species produced poor flowers, if at all.

Several lessons can be learned from the information that I have been given. In every case that I have come across where very heavy losses have been sustained, the heathers have either been quite old, covering the ground and having little or no room for the roots to spread and seek out moisture, or if planted in the last few years, far too much peat has been used. In most cases of recent planting, heavy losses have almost invariably been where heathers have been planted in pure peat or in soil that has been very inadequately prepared.

The factor which caused most damage of all during the summer of 1976 was the very high temperatures experienced several times during the hot, dry spell. When West Indian cricketers say that they have never played a Test Match in such heat, it makes you realise what our plants had to contend with. There is little doubt that gardens enjoying light shade during the middle of the day have fared better than those without any shade at all, but shade or no shade, gardens where heathers have been well planted in well cultivated soil have suffered very little.

It does seem that heathers in beds against house walls, or other situations where reflected heat has created even higher temperatures, have suffered more than usual. Brickwork has always tended to work rather like a wick in such situations, sucking water out of the surrounding soil, and trees also cause the same sort of problems.

If it is possible to draw conclusions from these observations, I think it emphasises the importance of thorough soil preparation to make a good friable medium. Use a mixture of moist peat and soil for filling around the roots, preferably equal quantities of each, and certainly not all peat and finally give a thorough mulching with peat or some other suitable humus-making material

One final word on watering. A little and often does more harm than good, bringing roots to the surface. A soaking at weekly intervals is far more successful and the people I have spoken to who have kept older plantings alive, have all watered infrequently, but thoroughly. I know that watering at all was a problem this year, but, despite the difficulties, the rule remains the same.

The advice given in all books on heathers amounts to the same thing and those who follow the advice have fared better than those who choose to ignore it in one way or another. Surely that is the lesson we can all learn?

Rose Cottage Ramblings

David Plumridge

"Daboecia": How do *you* pronounce it? At a meeting of the Yorkshire Heather Group we couldn't help but notice that the cognoscenti pronounced it "dab-ee-sha". The cognoscenti included Charles Nelson so we concluded that must be the way to say it! However, we have always pronounced it in the manner given in *Plant Names Simplified – Their Pronunciation and Derivation* by A.T. Johnson and Henry A. Smith: "da-bo-e-se-a: from its Irish name, St. Dabeoc's Heath". The last revision of this handy little book was in 1946, so maybe the received pronunciation has changed since then? I wonder what members think? Does it matter or should the Society issue a *Pronunciation Guide* CD to complement the Colour Chart? Advice on how to say 'Kerstin' properly would be wonderful...! (However, *The Heather Society* web site does give help with some of the more problematic names – thank you David.)

Our attendance at the 2005 Conference paid dividends when we received our rooted cuttings from David Edge. Judging by the number we received, we must have had near 100% success – no doubt due to what followed after we stuck them in the compost filled cells! They were very welcome. Rita had cleared away a large area of overgrown *darleyensis* and she was very happy to fill the space with varieties new to us – *Erica cinerea* 'Goldilocks' and *Erica x garforthensis* 'Tracy Wilson'. They are coming along quite well, helped it must be admitted, by a little watering in the hot, dry summer (yes, hot even up here in the North Pennines!)

We hope other participants in the cuttings session had similar success? Incidentally we forgot the name of the *Erica* cross for 'Tracy Wilson' and couldn't find it on the Society web site. A quick "Google" unearthed her progeny. Isn't 'Google' amazing? We were so lucky to be able to see Tracy Wilson's birthplace at David Wilson's nursery this August after the NAHS Conference.

We have built up a collection of small rhododendrons and while we used to dead head assiduously it has now become such a serious chore that we don't bother. Has anyone tested whether it makes a difference? We note the

monster rhododendrons at gardens such as our nearby NT Cragside bloom furiously and they must be impossible to dead-head.

In an email exchange with our chairman, Arnold told me which heathers had survived the drought conditions in his garden. Possibly with these weather conditions expected to be a permanent feature, maybe we should have these properties highlighted in heather guides? It seems our North Pennine climate was more favourable with only occasional sprinkling being required. (n.b. Thanks to Kielder Reservoir in Northumberland).

Am I right in thinking the media is now becoming aware of the value of our favourite plants? I was astonished to see both Carol Klein and Joe Swift actually planting heathers during their BBC2 programme just before Christmas. See them at Chelsea next...? Maybe not for a while, but it's an improvement! I was also cheered to see in the 'Guardian Weekend' on December 9th in 'A Garden for Winter': "Heather, *despite being unfashionable* (my italics) makes a superb ground cover and, with foliage ranging from yellow through to grey and dark green, will look good way beyond winter." (*The Telegraph Gardening Section January 13th 2007, also had a half page spread on winter-flowering heathers, with a beautiful close-up of 'Myretoun Ruby' Ed.*)

On the other hand I despair when I read articles in *Gardening Which* and *The Garden* recommending plants to attract the endangered bumble bees – there was nary a mention of heather. Bumblebees swarm over our heathers and I am astonished that the authors don't seem to associate bees with heather honey.

And finally, we were very disappointed when Dorothy Warner told us about the demise of our local group. Despite trying to encourage new members, none was forthcoming to replace those who have sadly left us. Dorothy and husband Geoff have worked very hard over the years to organise successful events and trips and we are most grateful to them. Sadly a sign of the times.... (*Not an absolute demise – see North East Group News Ed*)

David Plumridge

Weed Alerts

***Erica scoparia* L. Besom Heath (Ericaceae)**

Matthew Baker, Tasmanian Herbarium

(An interesting Snippet spotted by Dr. Charles Nelson)

Erica scoparia belongs to a group of *Erica* species that occur naturally in Southern and Western Europe. This group is geographically isolated from the extremely diverse group found in South Africa. The species is native to SW Europe, extending eastward to Italy and northward to France. In its native range it prefers acidic soils.

Erica scoparia is known to occur as a weed only in Tasmania. It is naturalised in the Bridgenorth/Rosevale area (NW of Launceston) and a few plants have been recorded near Carrick. It is most abundant along roadsides in this area where it has spread into both grassland and bushland in similar proportions to its well known cousin *Erica lusitanica* (Spanish Heath). *Erica*

scoparia reproduces by seed that is very fine and would be easily transported by water and on roadworks equipment.

Erica scoparia was first collected in Tasmania in 1968 but was not identified as such until a subsequent collection was made in 1983. It is a particularly boring shrub with little ornamental value. The flowers are tiny and insignificant, even en masse. This has probably limited its spread throughout the world as an ornamental species and subsequently limited its opportunity to become a weed.

Erica scoparia is not a declared weed in Tasmania. There are no legal requirements to manage it. However, its ability to persist where it is and to invade bush-land is alarming. Given the chance it is likely to become more common as a weed in the State.

Extracted from TASWEEDS edition 28

September 2005, by permission. (http://www.tasweeds.org/pdf/Tasweeds_Sept05.pdf)

Letters to the Editor

A pressing problem!

I have always thought that it is a real shame that plants don't bloom all year and that when the flowering is over you have to cut all the flowers off and wait until next year for some more. So I hit upon a bright idea – buy a flower press and preserve some of the almost spent blooms forever!

I have pursued this idea with some success – particularly with my African Violets and I have a healthy industry going in pressing them and making them into greetings cards. So when it came time to trim my *Ericas* this year I thought I would try them too. However I have hit a snag. While the African Violets press very nicely and look pretty much as they did when living, the pressed *Erica* flowers don't look good at all. They look rather like they have been sat on from a great height and splatted onto the paper: what looked elegant in real life looks like a squashed mess on the page. I have tried this with a number of my flower cuttings so it is not a one off disaster.

I'd therefore be grateful for any help and advice in this area. Has any one had success with flower pressing heathers? Is it just my ineptitude that makes my pressed *Ericas* look bad or are they just not the right shape



to press well? Or am I not artistic enough to arrange them on the page to look good? Are other heathers better looking when pressed? Thanks.

Lizzie Judson

Global Warming?

Am I alone in having some winter heathers appearing early this year? All my *Ex darleyensis* 'Kramer's Rote' were out in mid November. If I am alone, it must be Tintwistle warming!

Dr. Colin Rogers

(I asked Colin for an explanation of 'Tintwhistle' and was told it is his home village. Ed.)

Email letter to David Small from Ted Oliver in South Africa

Hi David,

Here is something to cheer you up. An ex colleague, ex Deputy Director of the Botanic Society and now private environmental consultant, Dr. Dave McDonald, sent me a photo of an *Erica* to identify for his work and I could easily name it, but in his reply he said:

"Many thanks for your reply. In the meantime I managed to ID the *Erica canaliculata* myself. I was casting around on the internet and looked up *Erica* — only to come across a whole lot of sites advertising dubious dames with the name of *Erica*. Then I searched on 'heather' and found *The Heather Society* site and to my surprise they had a picture of the very *Erica* I wanted identified. So I got the name there and confirmed it in your book and Dolf's book."

So - imagine the HS website being used in the Cape to get a name for an *Erica*. . . well done!

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

Q I wonder if you could help me. An obese gypsy lady asked if I wanted to buy some lucky heather yesterday in town. I said "Get lost!" and she said she would put a curse on me. Now I'm quite worried, you hear about these things all the time don't you? Can you please tell me where I can get hold of some lucky heather to protect me before something happens? Please advise as quick as you can. Thank you.

A Any white flowering heather is considered "lucky" and you readily can get one from a local garden centre.

Reply: Thank you for replying so very quickly, but the problem is, I dare not leave the house now as I'm sure that's when she'll attack. Is there anywhere where I could order a healthy box of lucky white heather to be delivered? Your rapid response could help prevent an accident.

(David thought this was probably a humorous leg-pull! He didn't answer the second email.)

Q Can you possibly tell me how to prune a tree-heather please? Thank you so much.

A The best way of dealing with tree heaths is to secateur off any unshapely branches. You can be quite brutal in doing this provided you do not cut off too much green. The best time to do this is in the spring once any risk of severe frosts is past.

Q I sell fragrant and essential oils at my store (WYSH 'warm your soul here') in Park Ridge NJ. I recently sold a bottle of Heather oil and my customer fell in love with the fragrance. A lot of the essential oils have certain properties and therapeutic values, can you tell me anything I can relay back to my customer regarding the 'effects' if any of Heather Fragrant oil.

A All I can find out is the following:

1. Heather oil is often used for protection from violence and rape.
2. To contact the shades of the departed.
3. Worn as a perfume to bring good luck.
4. An oil for luck, used for protection in rainmaking ceremonies.
5. To conjure up ghosts.
6. It also seems to be used to conjure up spells, both good and bad.

Personally, I think it is more to do with relaxing - the smell conjuring up thoughts of the beautiful and peaceful moorlands of England and Scotland.

No natural essential oil is extracted from the heather plant. This explains why all essences sold commercially are reconstituted in laboratories.

Q I bought a plant in the winter here in Sonoma CA that was extraordinary. It was a mound about 7in round. What was extraordinary was that its leaves were blue, as blue as some evergreen trees, and it was full of small berries about a 1/4 inch. I don't remember their colour now, wither they were also blue or somewhat red. I thought it was a partial shade plant but as the sun became hotter it began to wilt. I thought it was just lack of water but it was the heat and in a day I lost it. I loved it. So I'm wondering if you know of it. I think its label said it was a heather or false heather, but I could be wrong.

A No heathers have berries so I think "false" heather might be nearer the truth. The term 'False Heather' is usually attributed to *Cuphea hyssopifolia*, which also does not have berries. I suspect you had a species of *Vaccinium*, but without further detail it is difficult to be more precise. All *Vaccinium* like shade and moist conditions.

Q I am planning to build a heather garden of area approximately 4m x 4m. The sub soil is clay based although the top soil is not now heavy (pH reading approx. 7). I have put plenty of rocks in the base to improve drainage and was planning a top dressing of peat and gravel prior to planting. I understand however that peat is not now readily available (for understandable environmental reasons). Would an ericaceous compost mixed with gravel and existing top soil be a suitable alternative? If so could I then plant heathers suitable for acid soils? Finally, is October a suitable time for planting heathers? Thanking you in anticipation of your cooperation.

A The only way you are going to reduce the pH to an acceptable level is to do everything that you are planning to do PLUS adding flowers of sulphur at 140g per sq. m. It is not easy to obtain. Failing that you have to be resigned to watering your heathers with Miracid (or equivalent) twice a year

in May and late June. If you do not want to go to this bother, stick with heathers that flower between January and May, as most of these will grow in any well-drained soil.

Whatever heathers you use keep them well-watered during the first spring and summer after planting. Autumn is a very good time to plant but you will find availability poor. Sadly, Garden Centres only hold plants just about to flower and there are precious few specialist heather nurseries left.

Group News

Yorkshire Heather Group

A meeting has been arranged for 2.30 pm on **Saturday, 17th March** in the Field Classroom at Harlow Carr. The speaker will be Dean Peckett, Superintendent of Gardens at RHS Harlow Carr. The talk is "The Winter Walk at Harlow Carr" We should love to have lots of members there to support us in our efforts to increase membership of this group.

The planned programme is: **2nd June** – 'Dwarf Conifers', with either a local member of the British Conifer Society or a local conifer nurseryman. This again will be in the Field Classroom at Harlow Carr at 2.30 pm.

We intend to visit Strensall Common, one of several lowland heaths in the vicinity of York in July accompanied by an ecological speaker, probably from the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust who look after the heaths.

Then on **22nd September** we hope to have a speaker from the Alpine Garden Society. This may be a joint meeting with another local group. It will be in the Study Centre at Harlow Carr at the usual time of 2.30 p.m.

Jean Julian

North East

We held our AGM on Friday, October 27th, 2006. Five members were present (three of whom were Committee) plus Dave and Beryl Mayne from Kirkbymoorside. Because we knew the attendance was going to be so small, we cancelled the Church Hall where we usually go, and the meeting was held in our house.

For some time we had all been aware that our numbers were dwindling and at this meeting we talked about the future of the North East Group. We now have only nine active members, 7 of whom are on the Committee, and it was unanimously agreed that the time had now come when it was not practical to have a Committee and that a Convenor would be more appropriate. As we did not wish to disband our Group altogether, I agreed to be Convenor, but in future any notice of Meetings or outings will be made in the Bulletin and NOT by Group Newsletters as in the past.

So, the date for our Annual Outing will be **Sunday, May 6th**, and will be a visit to Kiplin Hall in North Yorkshire. Any further information on this or anything else, please phone me on 01661-823299.

Dorothy Warner

East Midlands

Maurice and Daphne Everett have kindly invited us to visit their 2.5 acre garden at the Bannut, Bringsty, near Bromyard, **Saturday 18th August 2007**. We last visited this lovely garden on 14th August 1999

The garden contains heather beds covering an area of almost half an acre, a unique Heather Knot Garden and, since October 2005, a Demonstration Bed of *The Heather Society's* 100 Recommended Heathers.

Daphne and Maurice suggest that since members may have a long way to travel they might like to arrive at around 1.00 pm when a light lunch will be provided. They also generously say that there will be no entrance charge to members of our party. The garden visit will begin at 2 p.m.

Please note in your diaries!

More details and a route map will be available before the event. On this occasion it will be essential to let me know by **July 14th 2007** if you intend to come.

Members from other groups will be welcome.

Allen Hall

Home Counties

The Garden Meeting Room has been booked for this year's RHS Wisley meeting which will take place on **Saturday 22nd September**. Details to be given in the next *Bulletin*.

Derek Millis

South West Area News

In the continued absence of a volunteer to run the former South-West Group the unofficial arrangements for getting together during 2006 continue into 2007. I will remind you that the dates will only be announced via the *Bulletins* and visits to gardens will not be pre-arranged and therefore any advertised group rates for garden entry will not apply. No guided tours will be arranged.

The last get together of 2006 was on October 7th at Knoll Gardens near Wimborne in Dorset. I was pleased to see several members attend on that afternoon and the weather was kind to us allowing a leisurely walk around the garden. The garden boasts a wide collection of trees, shrubs, perennials and is well known for the large collection of grasses. I will confess to not being a lover of grasses but on that afternoon I will admit to the garden having many attractive features with grasses predominating. However I think my favourite of the afternoon was the water feature comprising of streams, waterfalls and pools. There was a small nursery adjacent to the garden with many examples of the plants to be found in the garden and yes, you guessed it, a generous display of grasses. The afternoon was rounded off with the weather allowing us to sit outside and enjoy a chat over a cup of tea.

For the spring of 2007, Lin and I will be visiting Furzey Gardens, in the New Forest, on **Saturday, March 24th** and Society members and their friends are invited to meet us in the car park at 2.00 p.m. and to take a stroll with us. This is a garden that has been visited by the SW Group of the Society in the past and has plenty to interest members. The garden has a collection of spring bulbs, trees and shrubs together with a heather garden and a lake with a waterfall. For the plant buyers amongst you there is a small nursery stocked by the students of the Minstead Training Project. For 2006 entry was advertised as £4.50 with concessions. The garden has refreshment facilities and an art gallery. Furzey Gardens is at Minstead which is best approached by turning right off of the A337 Cadnam - Lyndhurst road when travelling from the Cadnam direction. The garden is adequately signposted.

current intention is to announce a further garden visit for later in 2007 to be advertised in the Summer *Bulletin*, meanwhile Lin and I look forward to meeting you at Furzey Gardens.

Phil Joyner

More Advice on Computer Problems Borrowed from the Tresco Times

Dear Tech Support:

Last year I upgraded from Girlfriend 7.0 to Wife 1.0. I soon noticed that the new program began unexpected child processing that took up a lot of space and valuable resources. In addition, Wife 1.0 installed itself into all other programs and now monitors all other system activity - applications such as Poker Night 10.3, Football 5.0, Hunting and Fishing 7.5, and Racing 3.6.

I can't seem to keep Wife 1.0 in the background while attempting to run my favourite applications. I'm thinking about going back to Girlfriend 7.0, but the 'uninstall' doesn't work on Wife 1.0 Please help!

Thanks,

Troubled User.....

REPLY:

Dear Troubled User:

This is a very common problem. Many people upgrade from Girlfriend 7.0 to Wife 1.0, thinking that it is just a Utilities and Entertainment program. Wife 1.0 is an OPERATING SYSTEM and is designed by its Creator to run EVERYTHING!!! It is also impossible to delete Wife 1.0 and to return to Girlfriend 7.0.

It is impossible to uninstall, or purge the program files from the system once installed. You cannot go back to Girlfriend 7.0 because Wife 1.0 is designed to not allow this. Look in your Wife 1.0 manual under Warnings-Alimony/Child Support. I recommend that you keep Wife 1.0 and work on improving the situation. I suggest installing the background application "Yes Dear" to alleviate software augmentation. The best course of action is to enter the command C:\APOLOGIZE! Because ultimately you will have to give the APOLOGIZE command before the system will return to normal anyway.

Wife 1.0 is a great program, but it tends to be very high maintenance. Wife 1.0 comes with several support programs, such as Clean and Sweep 3.0, Cook It 1.5! and Do Bills 4.2 .

However, be very careful how you use these programs. Improper use will cause the system to launch the program Nag Nag 9.5. Once this happens, the only way to improve the performance of Wife 1.0 is to purchase additional software. I recommend Flowers 2.1 and Diamonds 5.0!

WARNING!!! DO NOT, under any circumstances, install Secretary With Short Skirt 3.3. This application is not supported by Wife 1.0 and will cause irreversible damage to the operating system!

Best of luck,

Tech Support

Zone 1

DUNCAN, Mr N., Greenbank, Dean Place, Newstead, Melrose, Scotland, DD6 9RL.
 GILL, Mrs L., Forresterhill Farm, Oldmeldrum, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, AB51 OBS.

Zone 2

DALLAS, Mr W. A., 123 Mountsandel Road, Coleraine, Co. Londonderry, N.I., BT52 ITA.
 DEANE, Mr D. A., 185 North Road, Belfast, BT4 3DJ.

Zone 4

POYNTZ-WRIGHT, Dr R. C., High Bewaldeth Cottage, Bewaldeth, Cockermouth,
 Cumbria, CA13 9SX.

Zone 5

MORPHETT, Mr R. B. W., Cowside Farm, Blackshawhead, Hebden Bridge, W. Yorkshire,
 HX7 7JB.

O'GORMAN, Dr H., Swathgill, Coulton, Hovingham, York, YO62 4NG.

Zone 6

BOWATER, Mr & Mrs R., 16 Hamilton Drive, Radcliffe on Trent, Nottingham, NG12 1AG.

EYRE, Mr G. C. & Mrs J., Mill Farm, Brough, Bradwell, Hope Valley, S33 9HG.

NICKELS, Mr M. J., Eames & Sons, The Causeway, Thorney, Peterborough, PE6 0QQ.

Zone 9

SMY, Mr C. F., 4 Romany Walk, Poringland, Norwich, NR14 7QZ.

Zone 11

BURNHAM, Mr A. R. 9 Brackley Road, Hazlemere, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire,
 HP15 7EW.

JAMIESON, Mr V., Parkwood House, Golf Club Lane, Piltown, East Sussex, TN22 3XB.

Zone 12

FLUELLEN, Mr R. A., Foxwood, 15c Bury Road, Poole, Dorset, BH13 7DE.

Zone 13

DYER, Mr & Mrs L. K., Fernworthy, Bridestowe, Okehampton, Devon EX20 4EU.

TURNER, Mr B. C., Uplands, Green Lane, Raymonds Hill, Axminster, Devon, EX13 5TD.

Zone 14

GOGSTAD, Mrs H., Asnespynten 10c, 3222 Sandefjord, Norway.

HUSMANN, Mr H., Campen 7, 27246 Borstel, Germany.

HORAN, Mr P. & THURNER, Ms N., 51 Cash Road, Sapphire, North Carolina, 28774, U.S.A.

JEFCOATE, Mr T. E. S., 9 Rue de la Garenne, Marrault, 89200 Avallon, France.

RAMOS LOPEZ, Mr E., Copilco 76B3-102 Mexico D.S. Co4 360, Mexico.

SCHUSTER, Ms T.M., 5001 Eltha Drive - Apt. F, Winston-Salem, NC 27105-1115, U.S.A.

Van HOF, Mr E., Esweg 15, 3771 PK Barneveld, Nederland.

Van KRIEKEN, Mrs M. J., PO Box 1122, Mulino, OR 97042-1122, U.S.A.

WAZLOWSKI, Ms J-A., 7 Hillside Drive, New Fairfield, CT 06812-3222, U.S.A.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Zone 1

STEEN, Mr & Mrs M., 1 Rosedale Gardens, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire, G84 7RW.

Zone 4

JONES, Mr R. W. V., 64 Newlands Road, Lancaster, LA1 4JF.

Zone 9

ROBERTSON, Mr P. K., Cedarwood, 1 Braggs Lane, Hemingford Grey, Cambridgeshire,
 PE28 9BW.

Zone 12

MAGINESS, Mrs B. D., Two Cedars, 81 Dunyats Road, Broadstone, Dorset BH18 8AF.

Zone 13

JELLEY, Mrs S., Little Oak, 1 Vennings Copse, Budleigh Salterton, Devon, EX9 6AX.

Zone 14

ALANINE, Dr & Mrs A. I. D., 4 Rue de Kleinfeld, 68870 Brinckheim, France.

SMALL, Drs I. & C., 19 Fontano Road, Wattle Grove, 6107 WA, Australia.

SVENKERUD, Mrs G., Midtunia 19, 5224-Nesttun, Norway

DECEASED

Zone 9

MERRIN, Mrs J., 10 Brownfield Way, Blackmore End, Wheathampstead, Hertfordshire,
 AL4 8LL.

Zone 11

TUCKER, Mr J., Floraldene, Findon Road, Worthing, W. Sussex, BN14 0BW.

RESIGNATIONS

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GODFREY, Mr C., 9 East Drive, Larbert, Stirlingshire, FK5 3EL.

Zone 3

GOODCHILD, Mr D.J., 66 Darras Road, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE20 9PG.

Zone 5

CRAVEN, Miss H. R., 36 Whitehall Croft, Rothwell, Leeds, W. Yorkshire, LS26 0JD.

THOMAS, Mrs S., 39 Harrington Avenue, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 4JU.

Zone 6

FEARN, Mr G., Hope Cottage, Aldern Way, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1AJ.

SWAIN, Mr G., 33 Saville Street, Blidworth, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, NG21 0RW.

Zone 9

GRIGGS, Mr J. R., 6 Park Close, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2XZ.

Zone 11

PITTMAN, Mr S. C., 15 West View Court, Steyne Road, Seaford, East Sussex, BN25 1EU.

SALT, Mr J. A., Chestnut Cottage, Whitley, Ide Hill, Sevenoaks, Kent TN14 6BW.

TURRELL, Mr & Mrs J. A, Little Willows, 12 The Ridings, Seaford, E. Sussex, BN25 3HW.

Zone 12

CLARK, Mr & Mrs P.W., 34 Alton Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset, BH14 8SN.

DAVIS, Mrs V. E., 15 Rosamund Avenue, Merley, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 1TE.

Zone 14

VANDUSEN GARDENS LIBRARY, 5251 Oak Street, Vancouver, British Columbia,
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For information, photos and updates, visit the NAHS Web site at www.northamericanheathersoc.org

If you want to be on the Conference electronic mailing list, follow the guidelines on the Web site.



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D. Lambie: <i>Heathers – a guide to designing a heather garden</i>	2.45 <input type="checkbox"/>	2.95 <input type="checkbox"/>	3.35 <input type="checkbox"/>
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For a **full** list of publications see the annual order form issued with the **Autumn 2006 Bulletin**.

Plant Sales

A very successful 'perk' in recent years has been the opportunity for Members to put in an Autumn order from a choice over 1000 heather cultivars and have them delivered the following Spring. I have run this scheme for the past 7 years or so, but now it is time to hand over to someone younger.

I am delighted to say that Allison Fitz-Earle is going to continue the scheme.

To place an order, write to: Allison Fitz-Earle, 78 Woodland Way, West Wickham, Kent, BR4 9LR. Email allisonfitzearle@yahoo.co.uk. Tel: 0790 582 5818.

See over page for details.

David Small

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USEFUL ADDRESSES

Society's Website: 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 *Tel:* (01494) 449397
- Treasurer**
Mr. P.L. Joyner, 84 Kinross Road, Rushington, Totton, Southampton, Hampshire, SO40 4BN.
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